Ross Dowson archives – correspondence – Year 1982

01_14 Letter to George Breitman (SWP), New York, re: regrets RD has no SWP archival material; suggest Bill W. (BC) as a possible source

01_19 Letter to Brian Palmer, SFU, Burnaby, re: RD`s and others' writings on the pioneer Trotskyist leader Maurice Spector

01_25 Letter to the Editor, (Toronto) *Globe & Mail*, re: the realities of the Yalta Agreement in which Stalin was a party to a summary carving of Europe into slabs of major power control; how Trudeau was wrong on Solidarnosc

02_22 Letter to OHIP, re: RD`s statement of income

03_26 ++Letter to R. Sims (LSA), Montreal: left tendencies enquiring about using Camp, need a Board meeting to make it ready if all agreed

04_10 Letter to Anne (D.), Ottawa, re: the meeting of forces around the magazine ''Agenda;'' RD`s scathing critique and comparison with *Forward;* the Quebec ''operations'' and local activities

05_10 Letter to Mary Shull, re: the situation with the Trotskyist left in Ontario

06_09 ***Document: Socialist Rights Defence Fund press release, re: Small Claims Court action launched*** seeking damages for admitted RCMP circulation of false letters under ''Operation Checkmate''

06_14 Letter to Denis M., Rimouski QC, re: thanks for the refused article for *Forward;* citing useful books on science; Sask. NDP open to PQ alliance; the left in Quebec; anti-war actions in Ontario

06_99 ***Document: Article from*** *Forward,* ***mid-Summer issue: ''Critique on book on socialist history"*** *by RD (''Canadian Bolsheviks" by Ian Angus)*

07_00 *(Undated letter found in 1982),* to Greg Kealy, History, Memorial U., St. John's, Nfld, re: launch of Angus book on CPC, RD`s review questions Angus`s methology

07_01 Letter to Joe Meslin, Dear Nic and Mary (?) re: new book by Angus on early years of the CPC badly flawed

07_02 Undated, unfinished note to self, re: Morton`s critique of the new Angus book on CPC, ''Canadian Bolsheviks''

07_09 Letter to Mitch (P.), Winnipeg, re: the value of exchanging views on the left, many of whom do not read *Forward*

07_09B ++Letter to R. Sims (LSA) Montreal: meeting apparently turned down offer to rent Camp to IS, tax bill still unpaid, our offer to buy their lots still open

07_14 Letter to Anne and George Mill, Huntsville ON, re: as contemporaries of Spector and MacDonald, what are their views on the new Angus book on the CPC?

07_28 Letter to Brian P., SFU, re: RD`s review of the Angus book on the CPC, ''Canadian Bolsheviks;'' how RD is written out of the history

07_99 *(Undated, first draft of)* letter found in July, 1982, to David Garon, Montreal, re: Metro NDP activity in civic elections; weekend conference of the Left Caucus; RD`s remarks on Deutscher`s works on Trotsky

08_17 *(2nd draft of)* Letter to David Garon, Verdun QC, re: situation in the left in Quebec; possibility of collaboration in writing on this topic

08_19 Letter to Bryan P., SFU, re: his remarks on RD`s review of the new Angus book on the CPC; discussion on RD`s evaluation of this period of history; further critique by RD of Angus`s methodology

08_21 ***Document: ''An Open Letter to the Toronto NDP;"*** re: urgent need for NDP to enter a clear label mayoralty candidate to act against Liberal assault on labor`s living standards

08_21B "Resolution on the party label" (found in 1982 Ward 6 NDP, also condemning the Sask. NDP government anti-labor legislation

08_26 Letter to Sam Gampel, Niagara Falls, re: RD had prepared to write the Angus book; a critique of its approach to history; Kuron`s Open Letter in Poland; comments on Mandel the writer

09_27 Letter to Anne (D.), re: birthday presents good and bad; a new Forward Group office; Tariq Ali on the BLP; the SRDF Small Claims Court case against the RCMP; Thanksgiving Day at the camp

10_08 Letter to David Garon, Verdun QC, re: busy schedule of events in Toronto; the upcoming anti-NATO demonstration in Ottawa; inviting him to write on problems of Quebec socialists; Montreal groupings and personalities; Deutscher on Trotsky; a full Marxist book list

11_17 Letter to Anne (D.), Ottawa, re: enjoyed the anti-war weekend in Ottawa; reading for Denis; the Marxist thesis that ``all economy is a struggle over the economy of time;'' changes in Camp lot owners

11_22 Letter to John and Carmen (G.) re decision on buying a lot at Camp Poundmaker

12_13 Letter to La Ligue des Droits et (Libertés), Montreal, re: thanks for their brochure and enclosing a small donation

12_13B Letter to *Inprekor* and *International Viewpoint* re subscriptions; death of Gisela Mandel

12_13C Letter to Jim (N.) Toronto re subscriptions; comment on RD's critique of the new Angus book

12_22 +Letter to R. Sims (LSA) Montreal: Payment received by LSA; further sales depend on buyers available; other bills paid by RD

12_98 (Undated letter) to Arthur D., Mattawa ON re: SRDF supporter met at Left Caucus convention meeting

12_99 *(Undated Document):* ***Resolution found in 1982 NDP Convention file),*** re: calling for the dissolution of the RCMP and a vote against its budget; for a force under popular civilian control

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2
Jan. 14, 1982

George Breitman, Apt 6C
711 E. 11th St
New York, N.Y. 10009

Dear George:

Thanks for your note of Jan. 2, 1982

I have a distinct impression that some years back I went through everything that I had my hands on and sent it off to you---that is anything that had to do with the American Trotskyist movement and the Fourth Internatonal(LO) as such. I never at any time felt that any of us up here would be writing anything that would in anyway justify our sitting on such material. But just in case I have now scanned a couple of folios of pre-World War II material in the back of a file here--and there is nothing even related to the items that you list.

Somewhile back in a conversation with Ian Angus I told him of a coupke of people who might have something---Earl Birney, Joe Silver, Maurice Altman of Toronto. I know for his own volume he contacted Birney--and I think he would have also contact the other two. I would feel sure that he would have let you know if he came across anything in his visits with them. But as you say--"you never know.." And so there is one other person who I might not have mentioned to Ian (inadvertently) This person if William (Bill) Whitney, and his wife Lillian, of Vancouver. Just in case it would be worthwhile asking a Vancouver comrade to go around and see this couple. Bill always followed U3 developments closely and was more clued in during certain periods that thecentre here in Toronto. As you probably know Seattle and other West Coast comrades had close contact with Vancouver comrades and the Witneys would have been the persons with any documents. Bill was a leading comrades before Icame into the movement. He has been away for a long time but I think he would be friendly. Ruth Bullock knows them well. He wouldn't have tossed anything out--only loaned it out-sometimes the same result.

It is good to see that despite all ailments you are still in the good fight. I continue to remain in excellent health. And on the recent death of my mothers only sister well into the eighties, it would appear I im come from the loins of long-livers. I am having to continually fight off friends and comrades who have all kinds of political plans for my time.---the story of my life. I am having a little trouble keeping in food and lodging but in 8 months I will make the pension which will more than sustain me. Within about 6 months the RCMP suits will be wound up ---a really big effortx carried almost entirely by Harry Kopyto(lawyer) and myself Alas. We got bigger support from the organized labor movement that any previous incident ef a related kind. Too bad, the revolutionary currents through their sectarianism (including The Militant and ICP) missed the boat. Accoding to my neice who spent the summer in England the current view is that I have sold out to social democracy, but that is probably being said of Tariqal also

fraternally RD

January 19,1982

Brian Palmer
Simon Frazer University
Burnaby, B.C.

Dear Brian;

Enclosed is a copy of our latest tear sheet on the case. I think that that is not a bad job on the McDonald Commission report which has been handled badly by all the press--I suppose the three volumes is just too much to grapbe with.

Yes, a biographical sketch of Spector would be very useful. I have been intending to get around to it--and one also on Jack MacDonald--probably the best that the Canadian left every threwm produced---one a mass popular leader and the other a theroticiam. of a high order.

I wrote an appreciation at the time of his death in Workers Va guard, August 26, 1968. A Gary O'Brien, a student at Yorkuuuuuu at York wrote his thesis on Spector and later gave me some material that he had worked with. It would be very good if while you are at SF is you were to contacted the Toronto Public library here and asked them to supply a copy of the microfilm they have of the Vanguard-edited by Spector with its continuity through to Labor Challenge and Workers Vanguard. If it were out there perhaps other students would be encouraged to work on it, While you are thinking about it you might pick up a copy of a new book---Canadian Bolsheviks-the early years of the Communist Party of Canada by I an Angus--published by Pathfinder. When I get some bothersome details cleared away I intend toxmxhexmxmxchexmxfx review this in Forward. At the unveiling of the book I kidded Angus about his attempt to write me out of the history of the Trotskyist movement

fraternally

Ross Dowson

Yes, I see Gary's item is an unpublished M.A. Thesesi at Carleton U 1974-- He was given some guidance from Starobin when the latter was at York.

January 25, 1982
Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2
961-4554

Letter to the Editor
Globe and Mail

Sir:

With Prime Minister Trudeau's first comments on the Jaruzelski regime's imposition of martial law on Poland, and his subsequent interpretations of those comments there has been a steady stream of correspondence to this column.

Trudeau sees the popular Polish movement Solidarity as upsetting the understandings worked out, as World War II was coming to a close, in the Yalta agreements. One of your correspondents after referring to the Feburary 1945 declaration on the rights of all nations to self determination quotes a Samuel Eliot Morison to the effect that "the Yalta agreements might have worked if they had been respected by Stalin."

Aside from the riging public statements by Roosvelt-Stalin-Churchill and their spokesmen, what were the realities? Some insight is given to us by Winston Churchill himself in the final volume of his personal narrative of the Second World War, Triumph and Tragedy, 1953, pages 226-7-8. After having invited the Lublin Polish Committee and the Polish prime minster and entourage to come, Churchill presents the scene at the after-supper meeting on the night of his arrivel in Moscow, October 9, 1944. In attendance were Stalin and Molotov, Harriman (for U.S. President Roosevelt), Eden and himself:

"The moment was apt for business, so I said, 'Let us settle about our affairs in the Balkans. Your armies are in Rumania and Bulgaria. We have interests, missions, and agents there. Don't let us get at cross-purposes in small ways. So far as Britain and Russia are concerned, how would it do for you to have ninet y per cent predomimance in Rumania, for us to have ninety per cent of the say in Greece, and go fifty-fifty about Yugoslavia?'"

While this was being translated Churchill tallied it down on a half sheet of paper--adding Hungary fifty-fifty and Bulgaria 75% Russia, 25% the others.

"I pushed this across to Stalin, who had by then heard the translation. There was a slight pause. Then he took his blue pencil and made a large tick upon it, and passed it back to us. It was all settled in no more time than it takes to set it down...After this there was a long silence. The pencilled paper lay in the centre of the table. At length I said, 'Might it not be thought rather cynical if it seemed we had disposed of these issues so fateful to millions of people, in such an offhand manner? Let us burn the paper.' 'No, you keep it,' said Stalin."

Of course these arrangements were upset long before the present Polish popular upsurge. When revolution broke out in Greece a member of the British parliament turned on Churchill with the charge that he had been duped by Stalin. Not so, replied Churchill. Stalin is a man of his word, he said. The Greek insurgents are Trotskyist men from the hills. Subsequently Tito and his Partisans overcame Stalin's sabotage of their struggle to overthrow King Peter and take power in Yugoslavia.

→

While the Canadian people can only oppose any heating up of the Cold War, Trudeau doesn't make his point that they have an interest in the imposition of martial law to maintain the status quo post World War II in the face of democratic and socialist opposition such as Solidarity's

E2-1912

32309189
40 Homewood Ave, #2311
Toronto, M4Y 2K2
9614554

Feb 22/82

OHIP

Since June 1st 1981 I have had no source of income other than unemployment insurance payments of $48 a week.

On September 1, 1982 I will be 65 years of age and as I understand it will no longer be required to make payments into the OHIP fund. Would you please make adjustments on your next billing.

thank you

Ross Dowson

March 26, 1982
Ross Dowson, 72511
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Robert Simms - T33823
Montreal

Dear Bob:

According to Ron Rosenthal, he and others of the International Socialists have been in contact with you in Montreal and Barry Weisledder here in Toronto with regards to their utilization of the facilities of Camp ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~Poundmaker

Ron approached me last year and the previous year but gave me to believe that there was opposition to their using the camp on the part of the T33&23 and RWL lot holders (shareholders) I told him that if that were so, in the light of the onrunning stalemate over the sale of the lot for which I had personally advanced funds that I was not prepared to get into a hassle over this and that your opposition ~~xxx~~ far as I was concerned and other shareholders blocked their utilization of it.

Ron tells me that both you and Wiesledder have led them to believe that you are open to the IS using Poundmaker facilities this summer--Ron has suggested the August holiday weekend for a starter.

If this is so I would like you to write me to this effect just as soon as possible. It seems to me that several matters would have to be acted upon immediately. First a meeting of the shareholders should be arranged to see if there is majority agreement--and if there is to lay out some basic plans. A supervisor-co-ordinator, heretofore struck off by the Toronto branch of your organization would again have to bestruck off--to work out and clear bookings, to arrange for the preparations of the camp facilities which the IS comrades are apparently prepared to feed into, to purchase a new stove~~x~~ for which I have accumulated the necessary funds from Forward fees, to see that the phone is in operation etc etc.

As president of the corporation, the only other elected officer is Vic Hugh, I am prepared to call a meeting of the shareholders immediately upon receiving word from you.

We have already had to pay the advance on this years taxes.

comradely

Ross Dowson

Of course it is in reality a NDP internal bulletin and non intervention in the Cdn class struggle in any way other than what that liberal reform parliamentary party provides - not enough for our revolutionary

Joss Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, MAY 2K2

April 10, 1982

this is a good practice

Anne Dowson, Ottawa

Dear Anne;

Sorry for my delay in answering your letter on March 25--now with another on April 4, my back is to the wall;

Marv Gandle was here in Toronto as you must have noticed from the ad in the lat st Agenda. I went to the meeting a half hour late so that I would not have to play any role in it--and could sit back and see what it has here and what they think they are about and where they are going. That morni g Gord Garbig, a man of your dad's age who used to be in the movement phohed me to ask what this agenda which had my name as a supporter on it was all about. He was on our subscribers list which we exchanged with John Bullen. He made a da ning criticism of it as having no line --how the hell can they put out a paper without say ing something about El Salvador, he cried. I had just read the issue that had been distributed by Fred and Wayne at the MTAC convention. ..and added to his criticism. The clearest basis was revealed in the Agenda reply to George Goldberg on page 11. "Agenda is a newsletter open to all views within the NDP." That really takes the cake for there is no view held by man or beat that is not held in the NDP- Goldberg is a case in point- ~~xxxx

you dont mind?

And so I sat silent at the Agenda meeting and listened to what was said. As I read it, Agenda is in a bad way--they have no money and Ottawa wants to get the load off its shoulders, transferring it to Toronto. There were 10 or 12 persons there. Among them an RWL, Harry Pate and his friend Kimberley, Dale Ritch and another person who I think is from Davenport. Stu Sinclair, a fellow who is active in the Left Caucus--another who was active in the Johnson campaign Gandle and myself--possibly another person and Wayne. Dale complained that the paper had no thrust---but he is looking for anything that doesn't comitt him too much and is useful. I didn't think that it was going anywhere--- generally Stu, Harry and Dale are has-beens, but Wayne said the few things that were enough to pull it together and arrange another meeting at Harry's on May 7, project with Dale's support a bash to raise funds, and strange to say somekind of an edit meeting on Tuesday April 20. Since I was there I felt it necessary to let Marv know where I stood ---I told him that I thought that the paper was of no use from the interventionist view that I am interested in, that in my view those who called themselves the editors and if they wanted to publish all the other stuff thrust their way, had to make sure that it had a line, up front line on the key issues. I was preparing a class ad at the time and inserted four lines along the bottom which I distributed among them so that they would get the idea. see enclosed copy.

Forward doesn't have many subscribers largely because of our few numbers to promote it and the few concious revolutionists at this time. Agenda has few subscribers because it on the other hand is so milktoast, nebulous, so completely lacking in challenge. Marv said they had 200 subs---from the list they exchanged it is about 140. ...we have double that---and we distribute at all the key actions and events in the Toronto area no less than 7 thoudand an issue. If I were you there in Ottawa I would keep in contact with them, help them a bit--make contributuons of a written character and work the NDP-NDY field, the womens movement and anything else that moves. concentrating on that fellow Denis and Fred Gloger...hang lose as they say. For Forward to dissolve into Agenda would to be to dissolve totally for Agenda is the loosest association of people who for various reasons and various political views are in and around a broad labor party reormist formation called the NDP. And at this time Agenda would appear to be going nowhere--can it said to be even an area for regroupment of left wingers when you read what are the key line articles such as John Bullen's and even Simon's? Perhaps in their concept that Agenda should carry anything submitted to it, they do not understand that such an article as Bullen's is a line article but others do. ----such articles as yours and Wayne-John B's are good but are clearly just contributions. It will be interesting to see what the response is to Bullen's, Gandle on parliament, and the editors reply to Goldberg. If there are none you will have to conclude that these leftists are imposing a censorship on themselves and it is becoming embarassing for us to be associated with such a paper..and one might have to ask that their name be removed from the list of supporters

We will be having a discussion on Monday on the Toronto meeting. I have been extremely doubtful about Wayne's involvement. Of course the idea of Forward dissolving into Agenda is absolutely preposterous for it would be a dissolution of Forward itself--it wouldn't be some kind of entry tactic but liquidation of our only real existence - the paper into what?

The matter of the GST is a totally different one--they are a group of serious revolutionairies trying to build a cadre organization--like the RWL. Right now I am not able to give you any hard evaluation of the GST and their international operations. Only a year or so ago they were involved with the RWL in some unity maneuvers, the premise of which were manuevers on the international plane. These blew up and insofar as I was able to follow them because of the rupture on the international plane. Our little group has been standing aside from these highly internationalizing time-exhausting, and seemingly fruitless affairs which of course sooner or later will have to be resolved--but I dont think it is soon. And it can't come from our tiny group but from major forces

Extri From where I stand their uebec op ratio s look impressive--alt hough some time I think their ~~xxxxxtxtxxxx~~ counterposing of a labor party to the PQ has been somew at mechanical. Faced with such a mass based reformist party I would think a serious revolutionary grouping with any forces around it would have an important fraction in the PQ. I gather that over the past period there has been some disagree ent as to t e significa ce of uebec nationalism. Several years ago they made some s ri us gestures through Sherwood and Aujame. Astonishing to me their approach was to worry over the whole ancient Pablo experience . Sherwood and Ross Ashley play no identifiable role in the NDP--~~xxx~~ in essence are liquidationists are such long range entrists as to amount to that. Erlier on in the Dawson suit I put the pressure on their Quebec operation to idenify with it.....I even pressured Sherwood to confront them. No resp nse. Finally Sherwood phoned me for an interview for their uebec paper--i said fine but just havi g finished a right update sheet on the suit encouraged him to write it up himself from all the data available. If his name is on the SRDF supporters list it is because I put it on. They have done nothing for SRDF, nor has the RWL - which is truly secarian on their part--foolishly so. My impression is that the word is out again among the Lambertists about us. They send us a bundle of ~~xxxxx~~ recent issues of their uebec paper and we are suddenly getting their Italian paper and probably there will be more. I am holding you with ~~xxxxx~~ your discussion with Luc responsible for this flurry.

But this will have to be a matter of a personal discussion which I intend to prepare for from studying their press and getting some insight on the Montreal and Quebec operation. It might be worthwhile writing for some material on them from the RWL in Montreal. If I were in Montreal I would go around to see the Mandel people about them who have entered La Cittee (100, from Le Devoir)

Thanks very much for Le Monde. Exactly what we need for the issue that we are getting ready now. I am going to get John Darling to translate it--probably we will run slabs. Do you get the weekend issue of LeMonde regularly.
You said that Denis had or would be sending me a letter. I received nothing.
Last April 5th G & M science page had three really interesting science articles - on computers and the Japanese-US battle , the implanting of fetal brain cells that may well mark a breakthrough against senility, and the seed industries endangering basic stocks. I can see it all--did you have a talk with Denis about that material ~~xxxxxxx~~

We are moving toward the Supreme Court hearing. Dont know the date yet but Harry tells me that he has been informed that Laskin agrees that there is a constitutional issue involved and that the various attorneys-general offices will probably be represented. The RCMP wished to appear but Laskin has refused them. I think there is nothing to say about the UN gambit--it is in their hands --we presented them with all the relevant material and we wil be hearing. With regards to the lower court and Chisholm I will be speaking to ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ Harry on Monday. Thanks for the notes on the Canadian Federation of Labor affair. I will be writing it up in the coming issue. Good to hear that Walter has responded. I have just phoned him to see if he will come up for supper and a swim but the line is busy. I have loved again , he was there and he is coming up to see me-Allen Gardens and have supper---and so I really must go-now that more time is allocated.

all the best

Ross

I take it that you will both be in Ottawa till the end of the month

All this is between me and you - to be used among Agenda circles at your discretion and without referring to me. I hope that they are your views too!

E2-1982

Ross Dowson #2311
10 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto
May 10, 1982

Mary Shull
Box 202
15Main Street North
Action, Ont. L7J 1V9

Dear Mary;

A surprise, and very good to hear from you after so long.

Alas there is no Trotskyist bookstore in Toronto right now. TheForward Group--of which I am a member ran one until about 3 months ago on Church Street but the landlord doubled the rent when we were having a hard time at the old rate and we decided that we had to pack it in

While there are no doubt more people calling themselves Trotskyist today the movemet is not at all united around one organization or paper as it used to be. ~~xxxxx~~ Harry Kopyto, Gord Doctorow, John Darling, myself EllieKtrzner who I think you know put out Forward now. We are all active in the NDP and in its Left Caucus. Since we have no staff we are having difficulty keeping up any real periodicity--we are getting ready to go to press right now. The old League for Socialist Action underwent a three way split--a big dispute....a reflection of a big dispute in the world movement . Reconsidered that the movement was going in a sectarian direction away from our orientation to the NDP, etc. there was also a real ultra left current which ended up with the Revolutionary Marxists and we considered that John Riddell, Art Young Dick ~~xxxxx~~ werewillory adapting to them. Fidler

*

The Young-Riddell group is known as the Revoutionary Workers Party and it putsout a paper called Socialist Voice and has a hedquarters at 3045 Dundas Street West. I dont have a spare copy at this moment to send on to you. Nor do I have a copy of the Militant. But I do have a copy of Intercontinental Press which covers worlddevelopments and carries the more important articles from the Militant. It comes out weekly. The international movement is also divided and a parallel jounal to Intercontinental Prass called International Viewpoint is being published. It is an English language edition of their jounal Inprecor which I think is very good. I am enclosing a sub form--they announced it early February but it should be available any day now. While I am typing this to you I will besanding an enquiry where things stand to them. I am sending you a copy of In These Times from the U.S. I read this to know what the more sophisticate NDPers are reading these days

The big thing I am involve in is a suit against the RCMP. The last issue of Forward has a whole two pages on this and where it stands. I think that it is a biggest thing we have ever been involved in. I hope you will enjoy the pamphlet Dawson V. RCMP I am also enclosing the latest on ~~xxxx

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 1982

The former chairman of the League for Socialist Action, an organization targetted for RCMP "dirty tricks" under the code name Operation Checkmate in the early 1970s, has launched a Small Claims Court action against the two RCMP officers in charge of harassing this political group.

Ross Dowson's suit against former Assistant Commissioner Stanley Chisholm and Superintendent Ronald Yaworski, seeking damages for conspiracy to commit forgery and injurious falsehood, was launched in the Toronto Small Claims Court in order to ensure that a speedy trial would take place.

The claim alleges that the two ex-RCMP officers transmitted false messages to disrupt the political activities of the League for Socialist Action. Both officers testified before the McDonald Commission that they circulated unsigned letters within the organization in the early 1970s for the purpose of discrediting certain members and disrupting the political activity of the group.

An attempt by Mr. Dowson to lay criminal charges against the two ex-RCMP officers was blocked by Ontario's Attorney-General Roy McMurtry who entered a stay of an enquiry into the criminal charges in October 1980. That case, presently on appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, is scheduled to be heard this fall.

In his claim, Dowson, suing on behalf of all former members of the organization, claimed that the letters, some of which were in French, were "motivated by malice against the Marxist and socialist views of the Plaintiff". Mr. Dowson alleges that the RCMP was out to injure him in his trade and that the phony letters were designed to isolate him and theorganization and create friction between the Quebec and Anglophone members of the group.

The action could be heard as early as this summer, according to Mr. Dowson's lawyer, Harry Kopyto, and would be the first civil trial arising out of the RCMP's disruptive tactics against radical groups .

For more information, contact the Socialist Rights Defence Fund 961-4554

-30-

FROM OUR GROWING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

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*organizations listed for identification only

#2311 Ross Dowson,#2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

June 14,1982

June 14, 1982

1982

Denis Masson
462 Cathedrale
Rimouski, Quebec

Dear Denis:

I must apologize for taking so long in answering your letter and enclosed article--dated I now see away back on April 8, 1982. There can be no excuse but that will not stop me from trying to present one.

First, what can I possibly say to you about the article that you so genarously took it upon yourself to write on my request. I found it interesting and so did Gordon Doctorow ,a math teacher at a high school here who helps work on the paper. But we both agree that it cannot be published in Forward--and it is not a matter of adjusting it here or there. It just doesn't approach what we had in mind. Naturally --as I really did not take the time and effort to discuss with you what we did have in mind.Oh yes, I had some genera ideas. I would have sent along to you Trotsky's essay on Marxism and Science that he delivered to a Mendelyev Congress. For a period Trotsky was chairman of the technical and scientific board of industry and head of all scientific institutions.I would have asked you to take out of the library up there Hogben's books Science forthe Citizen or his Mathematics for the Millions. Do you know them.? Perhaps you know that in England there was a considerable circle of scientists who were around the Marxist movement. Among them were J.B.S. Haldane, J.D. Bernal, V. Gordon Childe, Benjamin Farrington. While several of them were tops in the field they took a shot at writing material of a broad general character that could be assimilated by a worker who was seriously interested in the various sciences and society. There was a book recently published that dealt with this circle of scientists and their association with one another--in the Twenties and Thirties. Then there is Barrows Dunham--Man Against Myth Giant in Chains

I sent along the G & M articles to show you that the capitalist press was eveh publishing articles on science for a general readership. How did , how could I know that you would grab onto the project before we could really talk about it. I think we should leave the project aside until we meet again shortly and we can talk about it more leisurely and in an exchange of ideas. And in the meantime you will have to accept my apologies.

And what is happening in Rimouski? I see the PQ has decided to move in against the Liberals on the federal plane. That could have quite an impact on Canadian politics generally. In Quebec is the one area in the country where they have an effective machine. and there is no question that a real PQ effort would cause them some real difficulties. generally to the faovr of the Tories. It would

have some considerable impact
on those forces in the Liberal party who have been trying to sed uce the Broadbent wing in the NDP...it would push them forward possibly. Then you can imagine my suprise to open the Sask NDP Commonwealth
Is
which after their debacle there ~~are~~ open to all kinds of ideas b ut I think not the one that appears in its pages. It is a lengthy article written by Phil Resnick, a BC. political economist and John Richards who was a Sask MLA and supporter of the Waffle, calling for new NDP alliance with the Parti Quebecois. From a class point of view the PQ is moving to the write with its shameless attempt to put the blame for its fiscal problems onto the civil servants whose unions must of necessity condemn and resist the Levesque government. ~~I~~ ~~m~~ ~~a~~ ~~m~~ ~~t~~ ~~h~~ ~~a~~ ~~m~~ ~~a~~ ~~m~~ ~~a~~ ~~m

influence which is of some substance in this field. As you know the CP would like very much to ~~xxxxx~~ use Trudeau if it is at all possible against Washington and shape the anti-war movement here so that it does not demark itself from Trudeau but deepenshis independent stance. The bourgeoisie, faced with a truly massive anti-war movement cannot go along with Regan's cold-war line which threatens to destabilize their power. I am sure Trudeau took this move in agreement with Mitterand (even though not in NATO) and the Germans. It is a sort of replay when Pearson publicly condemned the preparations of the French and British to move in against Egypt at the time of the Suez crisis that imperilled their Near ~~xxxxxxx~~ and Middle East interests.

Well if you havent got ~~xxxxxx~~ many persons to talk to you can dispute with Trotsky by reading some major work like his History of the Russian Revolution which normally you wouldn't have the time to take on. or some other major scientific works that you have been intending given the time to take up.

And when do you leave for that project. I hear that Anne is doing very well pulling together some resources for when she is once again going to classes.

But I must go---the paper if to be finished layout and all this weekend and I have two articles still to write--one on the Falklands now that a turn has been taken with the surrender of the Argentine troops --a good thing since they saved their lives in a chauvinistic adventure of the Junta which they ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ terminated with their defeatism. Now the junta is going to have to pay , along with Thatcher as she starts to put the costs on the shoulders of the hard pressed British workers. It was good to see that the antiWar action in London was at least as big as last years. I feared that Thatchers bellicocity would gravely undermine it.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

(Review of "Canadian Bolsheviks: the early years of the Communist Party of Canada," by Ian Angus, Pathfinder Press, Montreal, 1981)

"Critique of book on socialist history" by Ross Dowson *(from Forward, Summer, 1982)*

The Communist Party of Canada is now conceived by most radicals and union militants as a mouthpiece of the bureaucratic caste that dominates the USSR. New layers of militants confronted with the right wing policies of the New Democratic Party leadership, and who are looking for an alternative to the difficult task of developing a new leadership within the mass movements of the working class, have learned this basic fact of political life easier than the generations that preceded them.

Today it is the rise of the people of Poland, united in a struggle for socialist democracy under the banner of Solidarnosc that is providing the acid test.

The CP of Canada gives its unabashed support to the military dictatorship imposed on the Polish struggle with the aid of the Kremlin bureaucracy. It was the Polish October of 1956, which followed on the 20th Congress CPSU revelations of the crimes of Stalin, that provoked the second major crisis of the Canadian CP. It witnessed the defection of almost the entire leadership that had been accumulated to that time, including among others J.B. Salsberg, the party's longstanding national trade union director.

In a burst of independence it had cabled a plea for a policy of non-intervention by the CPSU in the affairs of the Polish Workers Party. With the formation of two tendencies the Salsberg faction declared that "there are two lines and two policies before the party (which) cannot be reconciled. Because the question of an independent Canadian Marxist-Leninist party versus one that is subservient to the CPSU is one of principle."

With the publication of this book, titled ``Canadian Bolsheviks`` by Ian Angus, regardless of its shortcomings, new and valuable information is now available on the history of the first and formative years of the Communist Party. It was the struggle against the Stalinization of its pioneer forces related in these pages, that saw its decisive transformation from a building force into its opposite, a devourer and destroyer of revolutionary cadre.

Part I of Angus' three-part book presents what it would seem only proper to have headlined with the word Revolution. It outlines a revolution which would appear to have developed across Canada but was inexplicably overlooked, not only by the leading socialist militants of the day but by all subsequent commentators on the period – until discovered by Angus.

It is generally agreed that the Communist Party was launched in 1921. But Angus in the course of his painstaking research came across what he claims to be an earlier – **The First Communist Party.** It turns out to be substantially the Socialist Party of North

America which he notes ``never had more than 100 members organized in three or four locals in Southern Ontario.`` Elsewhere he even speculates ``as to whether the SPNA as a whole participated in the creation of the new party or whether its forces divided.`` He notes that ``neither the CP's own historians, nor the major academic studies of the party mention it at all.``

But it seems clear that the exciting tale that Angus pulls together from capitalist ``newspaper reports and other fragmentary sources`` is about one of what must have been many somewhat similar responses across the country to the inspiration of the Russian Revolution, elemental and of a generally immature, ultra-leftist character, with little if any influence on subsequent developments (**from the original draft, omitted*: "….an exciting tale based on what appears to be essentially the bold efforts of three revolutionists, two of them recent immigrants from Germany and the other a Russian youth expelled from a New York university who came only months before to Canada illegally to popularize the message of the October Revolution. Their door-to-door night-time distribution of some leaflets in April 1919 in several Ontario centres in the name of a fanciful 'Provisional Council of Workers and Soldiers Deputies of Canada' roused a hue and cry from church pulpits, professional war veterans and the press about the Bolshevik threat boiling inside Canada. They were quickly arrested and deported before the end of May. Angus speculates that two other currents were in some way involved, a language federation associated with the Social Democratic Party and a Russian Workers Union alleged, by an obscure source, to have 17 locals in Canada" – *end of omission*.) That is why the 1921 events which coalesced key elements from the main socialist groupings across the country can alone be correctly called the foundation or formation of the Communist Party. One would think that the author of what appears, not as an agitational tract but as a serious work of historical analysis and who professes to be a Marxist, would himself be puzzled as to why such contemporary socialist leaders as Spector and MacDonald gave no weight to what he baptizes the First Communist Party.

But as we continue to read Part I we find this highly speculative episode is but a piece of a whole – a sort of prelude to how Angus evaluates the Labour Revolt of 1919 – the Western Labour Conference and the great Winnipeg General Strike – and then the next period, which he labels **Counterrevolution.**

What was the overall significance of the period in which the Winnipeg General Strike was the centrepiece? ``Historians may argue whether a socialist revolution was possible in Canada in 1919,`` but historian Angus, having posed the question, backs off with the words, ``there is no doubt that this was the greatest social crisis Canada has yet seen.``

There have been innumerable books, pamphlets and essays on the Winnipeg General Strike written from every viewpoint on the political spectrum. While it was a general strike for very modest demands, it has a cherished placed in the annals of Canadian labour, and particularly for socialists, because certain aspects which appeared in very nascent forms prefigure their concepts of the struggle for and the development of a new egalitarian social order. But no analysis that this writer is acquainted with, other than

those of the Right, upon which Angus strangely falls back on, project his view that it was a revolution – that failed.

Angus quotes the charge by the Winnipeg business community, which organized the Citizen's Committee to mobilize intervention and strikebreaking by the Right, that: ``This is not a strike at all, in the ordinary sense of the term – it is Revolution. It is a serious attempt to overturn British institutions in this Western Country and to supplant them with the Russian Bolshevik system of Soviet Rule.``

Angus raps the knuckles of the editorial writers and speechmakers of the Liberal and Conservative politicians, but not for what one would expect: ``The spokesmen of the ruling class deliberately overstated the amount of conscious planning involved in the supposed Bolshevik plot.`` But certainly Angus can't be charged with doing so. He castigates the Socialist Party, whose forces were quite small in Winnipeg and according to historian Martin Robin ``were barely represented`` on any of the bodies at the head of the struggles, ``with total lack of anything even resembling a revolutionary strategy... in this situation the SPCers could only support the Christian radicals who urged the workers to remain passive. There was no serious effort to coordinate in the various cities,`` he charges, ``no effort to involve the strikers in decision making on a regular basis, no effort to extend the Strike Committee's authority. Above all there was no preparation for the clash with the state that would inevitably come.``

If ``the spokesmen of the ruling class deliberately overstated the amount of conscious planning,`` nonetheless, he continues, ``their statements show a clear understanding of the dynamics of the crisis.`` In summing up the chapter Angus states ``the labor revolt of 1919 showed the possibility of a transition to socialism that would result from a revolutionary crisis in which the working class would suddenly rebel against the established order. Such a rebellion actually occurred in a chaotic and unconscious fashion, in 1919.``

After this exaggerated, even false picture of the dynamics of the immediate post World War I situation in Canada, it becomes clear how Angus can open the next period with the heading ``Counterrevolution,`` buttressed with what he considers to be a relevant quote from a 1935 writing by Trotsky. It reads: ``Whoever understands history even slightly knows that every revolution has provoked a subsequent counter-revolution...``

But here too reality was somewhat different – as different from a counterrevolution as the events dealt with in the previous chapter differ from a revolution. Canada entered what has been called ``the roaring twenties,`` the post war capitalist upturn, an expansion built on the forced industrialization of the war years and the rehabilitation of war-torn Europe – prosperity.

Angus quotes American socialist James P. Cannon's description of its impact on the U.S. Communists: ``The prosperity sapped the confidence of the cadres in the revolutionary future. Prosecution inflicted wounds upon the party, but the drawn-out prosperity of the Twenties killed the soul.`` Angus stresses the demoralization of the

Canadian party cadre by stating, without providing any source to back it up ``that the (Canadian) party had been founded in the conviction that a mass revolutionary party could be built quickly, that proletarian revolution was on the order of the day.`` Yet, earlier he had occasion to note how the leaders of the Third International, including Lenin and Trotsky, saw the task of the American communists in their **Thesis on Tactics** in June-July 1921. While they addressed themselves to the situation in the U.S., it is clear they would have included Canada also where ``the communists are still only on the threshold of the first stage of forming a Communist nucleus and establishing contact with the working masses.``

Thus we see Angus' failure to even outline the concrete conditions that confronted the nascent Communist forces leads him to present a romantic, prone to ultra-left view of the post World War I period in Canada.

The central theme of Angus' book is that the CP, within 10 years of its founding, degenerated. It became Stalinized. From a cadre gathering formation with the aim of making a vital contribution to the struggle to establish socialism in Canada, it was transformed into a political apologist or borderguard of the Soviet bureaucracy. It became a reformist movement of a new type.

The youthful Communist Party found within its own ranks and in its most able ideologue, the editor of both its paper and theoretical journal, Maurice Spector, together with its most popular and talented mass working class leader, Jack MacDonald, the forces to initiate the fight against Stalinist degeneration. The fact that Spector and MacDonald, unbroken by Tim Buck and Company's campaign to drive them from the working class movement in an unprecedented campaign of lies and slanders, launched the Trotskyist movement as the early CP's direct continuator, cannot but be a source of great satisfaction to all genuine Marxists.

Buck claimed in one of his reminiscences that until he had succeeded in expelling Spector and MacDonald and carrying out the Bolshevization (in reality the Stalinization) of the party, it had in its early and formative years been Trotskyist.

Quite the contrary, declares Angus. "Tempting as such a view of Spector and the Canadian party may be to supporters and opponents of Trotsky alike it has no foundation in fact." Spector, as editor of the **Worker**, he writes, failed to advance the positions of Trotsky and his Left Opposition. Nor did Spector or MacDonald, perhaps fearful of being brutally cut out of the party, merely evade the issues by perfunctory publication of reports of Comintern statements without comment, possibly stalling for more favorable times. "Under the leadership of Spector and MacDonald the Communist Party accepted and endorsed almost every important shift in Comintern policy following Lenin's final stroke." What's more, Angus writes, the party under their leadership "did not stop with the support of the Communist International's line on international issues."

On top of that, Angus disapproves of historian William Rodney in **Soldiers of the International** (U of T., 1968), for stating that Spector in his analysis of the catastrophic

defeat suffered by the German Communist Party in 1923, "became one of the Western Hemisphere's first Trotskyites." "It is going too far to say that," according to Angus. Theodore Draper in **American Communism and Soviet Russia** (Macmillan, 1960), however, goes even further. "In the entire Western hemisphere there was at this time (in the early twenties-RD) only one real Trotskyist – Maurice Spector…" And James P. Cannon, to whom some would give this place, himself defers to Spector. Spector later joined Cannon on the leading body of the U.S. Trotskyist movement in 1933 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1936 to become an editor of its theoretical journal until 1939 when he dropped away. Cannon recalls that Spector's "open manifestation of sympathy for Trotsky… ante-dated mine by three years."

Spector and his new-found ally Cannon brought back from the Sixth World Congress of the Comintern Trotsky's **Draft Program of the CI: a criticism of fundamentals**. It laid bare the source of the crisis in the CI and what was happening to Lenin's party. Its cadre decimated and exhausted, was overwhelmed by a flood of careerists and opportunists who least of all wanted revolutionary forces looking to the Russian Revolution as the prototype through which they would realize their own hopes and aspirations; most of all they wanted peace, and forces abroad which they could hope would serve to neutralize world reaction threatening Soviet borders. This document revealed the unbridgeable gap between the conservative, counterrevolutionary national bureaucrats and the internationalist revolutionary tendencies in world communism.

What truth is there in Angus' claim that the newly formed Communist Party under Spector and MacDonald's leadership, not only "accepted and endorsed almost every important shift in Comintern policy following Lenin's final stroke" but "also conscientiously applied that line to Canadian conditions: every shift in CI policy had its Canadian expression"? In other words contrary to Buck's contention that in the formative years of 1923-29 the CPC was unconsciously Trotskyist, according to Angus it was Stalinist from the beginning. It had no heroic days.

Whatever his reasons may be, Angus stakes out this claim in Chapter 9 – The Communist Party in Transition, 1923-29 – where he fits the Canadian party onto a procrustean bed fabricated out of Comintern policies of the early Twenties, then only beginning to escalate into the even more horrendous expressions they took on into the Thirties and on into today.

This chapter is an elaborately contrived, contorted and completely false construction. The bed to be fitted to is formed by policies serving a conservative bureaucracy which besides attempting at any cost to preserve its own privileged positions seeks to justify to its defenders as norms of the new society, its elimination of the democracy of the Soviet councils and its establishment of one party rule. The body Angus attempts to fit onto this bed is the democratic, self-confident but inexperienced revolutionary cadre seeking to root itself in the Canadian working class and forge a leadership to give direction to the struggle for socialist democracy.

Here Angus parallels, if not equates, what was a modification of the Canadian party's position on the building of the Canadian Labour Party to the Comintern's turn to the peasantry for support. He parallels the Canadian party's shift to a conciliatory policy to A.R. Mosher and the All Canadian Congress of Labour which would shortly form a base for the CIO, to the Comintern's policy on the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Unity Committee which served to cover up the treachery of the British trade union leadership during the 1926 General Strike. He ties the Comintern's China policy of subservience to the nationalist-bourgeois liberal-bourgeois Kuomintang and Chiang Kai-shek to some views expressed in a debate during the Canadian party's first attempts to grapple with the nature of Canada's political economy.

In reality the latter would appear to be the first substantial theoretical discussion in the party, one which went through several stages before it was terminated by the capitulation of the 1931 plenum to a Comintern directive that Canada has a developed capitalist economy of a classic mould, an independent capitalist class, and is an imperialist power in its own right. Angus notes historian Norman Penner's comment in **The Canadian Left** that an early Buck contribution was "written outside the usual Communist frame of reference." He also quotes, in part, Spector's last and only rounded contribution on this question appearing in the Jan.-Feb. 1928 issue of the party's theoretical organ.

Spector gives nothing to any concept of collaboration with the Canadian capitalist class but, to obtain a real independence of Canada, calls for the struggle to be directed against the capitalist government of this country and for the establishment of a workers and farmers republic allied with the workers of the U.S. and Great Britain. However, Angus breaks off his quotation from this article, and thereby neglects to inform us, as did Penner's reference, that Spector founded his position on a serious re-examination of Lenin's **Imperialism**. He was convinced that Canada was one of those transitional forms of dependency "which are politically independent in form but are surrounded in reality with a fine network of financial and diplomatic bonds."

From an historical point of view, probably the most worthwhile contribution Angus makes is concentrated in the book's last five or six chapters. Here Angus presents the fruit of an extremely patient and detailed examination of CP archives which were seized by the RCMP during Section 98 days, held illegally for years, and only recently turned over to the Ontario Public Archives. For all his ingenuity piecing this material together from 50-year-old documents, it appears that Angus did not find a person who lived through this experience and who was able to fill it out such as U.S. historian Draper found in James P. Cannon. Thus there are statements and observations made, several without reference to source or authority, that seem to be scarcely credible.

For instance, are Angus' statements believable that the party's most experienced and sophisticated trade unionist, Jack MacDonald "had welcomed the Third Period" (a period that Angus properly calls one of 'suicidal ultra-leftism') "as a correction to the Comintern's rightward course in 1925-28"?

On the basis of what has been heretofore available and the facts he presents in this book, there seem to be no substantial grounds for Angus' petulant and sweeping criticisms of the CP's 1931 efforts to defend itself from government prosecution of its leadership under the witchhunt Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

Angus gives us little substantial insight into the relationship between the two founding leaders of the CP, both widely experienced, and though separated 10 years in age, both at the height of their powers. But certainly Spector's criticism of MacDonald in his report to his U.S. co-thinkers, following the tremendous disappointment of his expulsion and its aftermath, which Angus reproduces without comment, would not and could not be Spector's serious judgement. Angus takes it upon himself to make the unqualified statement that: "Late in 1927 or early in 1928 Spector came to the conclusion that the CPC's political difficulties were MacDonald's fault." If there is one thing certain, it is that Spector clearly understood where the real difficulties lay – in the Stalinization of the party, whose chief agent was Tim Buck.

FORWARD, Summer 1982

(July-re Angus book launched)

Ross Dowson
c/o Forward
Box 778, Adelaide Street P.O.
Toronto

Greg Kealey, History
Memorial University
St. John's, Newfoundland

Dear Greg Kealey:

I see everyone is reviewing Ian Agus's book on the early years of the Communist Party---Des Morton in Social History--Irving Abella in Canadian Forum etc. I would take it that Labour/Le Travail is considering doing so.

If that is so I am wondering if you would consider carrying my review in a recent issue of Forward. I wonder if in the pressure of appearing other work you noticed it. As distinct from Morton and Abella I have attempted to write a review that is worthy of the theme--what I think is a Marxist review

As trained historians, acquainted with the material, and considered by some to be experts I find their reviews woefully inadequate They both completely overlook Angus' method, which seems to me to be inexcusable on the part of serious historians. My approach leads to what some might consider to be a certain snarkiness, somewhat improper in academic circles, but I think quite appropriate when dealing with a matter of such importance to the struggle for a socialist Canada

In looking it over again I see that the lead might be considered to be inappropriate to such a journal as Labour/Travail. If it presents a problem I would be quite prepared to write a more suitable one. In fact my first lead dealt with the crisis that En Lutte found itself in when discovering that the objective situation within Canada was not revolutionary. It is ironical to see that Angus only now thinks that it was even in 1919.

Thanks for your consideration.

sincerely

Ross Dowson.

I have just been informed that we may well at last get our day in court. We are booked to appear before the Small Claims Court here on October 12

(Handwritten letter)

July 1/82

Joe Meslin

Dear Nic & Mary *(Olenyiuk?)*

I am enclosing a copy of the article that I wrote on the Angus book – the first 10 years of the CP.

I have found, as you will see, that the book is so unsatisfactory that I intend to write further on specifically both Jack M and Maurice Spector. Since you both knew them I would like to have an opportunity to talk with you about them – say in a couple of weeks time. I am hoping you will read over my article closely and also go through the Angus book. I will be back in town in about 10 days and will phone you.

All the best,

Ross Dowson

In his quite short item on the Angus book Morton hits out at some of its real weaknesses and I must admit with some effect. It is suprising that Angus does not deal in any detail with J.S. Woodsworth and his early relations with the Worker--as you know he sent in regualrly material for publication in the Worker--as a member of parliament he was thrust into dealing with the "Candian Question," which the Marxists of the time tended to ignore or dismiss as so much reformism or bourgeois nationalism. If possible, in the next period" I intend to pull this material together for publication as a pamphlet. I think it is too easy to attribute the emergence of the CCF to the influence of the Third Period on the Canadian CP and its policies. The CP cliamed it was a creation of the bourgeoisie --to divert the Canadian masses from the Communist Party . There is no doubt that Third period Stalinism

July 9, 1982
Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Dear Mitch;

Saw your name in the papers and it re minded me to write this note to you. The short discussion we had last interested me very much. ..particularly your comments about the Mahoods and others across the West who consider themselves to be Trotskyists. Of course we have differences. But what are they and how can we really know what they are unless we are able to examine one anothers views ? The paper that some of them put out from Montreal was eagerly subscribed to by us--but it ceased appearing. I note that few if any receive our paper--or are supporters of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund and get what goes out there.

How can one learn their views and how can they learn ours. We should be able to examine their views and they ours. While Forward does not carry on polemics over matters that are contentious among some revolutionists--it puts forward its own views. This issue we have an article on The Mulveans-Falklands in complete disagreement with the SWP-Intercontinental Press. We have a review of the Ian Angus book which also expresses a braod disagreement with the approach of the RWL and of course we deal with Canadian nationalism in that article as Spector touched on it and in the column O' Canada. What are our differences? Maybe-suprise-we dont have any real and substantial ones...including the NDP. The resolution reported as being passed by the Metro Toronto NDP council against the Sask anti-labor law was prestned by Ross Dowson

Whay dont some of the leading persons you are in contact get Forward. If you would send me some names and addresses I would send some off gratis. And we would like to hear theviews of others. Maybe they would like to use space in Forward---Whatever..

comradely

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

July 9, 1982

Robert Sims, Montreal
1317 est, rue Ste Catherine

Dear Robert Sims:

I assume that you received my communication of June 4 which outlined the apportioning of the tax bill and attempted to give you and others what transpired at the May 30 meeting which among other matters dealt with the proposition to rent the camp to the IS and Lynda Little's proposal on yourbehalf to sell the shares you represent, along with the counteroffer of $7,000 according to the Agreement.

I have now heard from a number of the persons who attended that meeting and am in a position to say, not having heard otherwise that my version of what transpired is an agreed one. Lynda informed the IS and when they contacted me I told them that I did not see any basis for their hopes that another meeting would reconsider the matter.

I have not yet received the TSS&ES payment of $285.60. Since the June 30 deadline has passed I have advanced this amount out of my pocket. The insurance bill will be along shortly and I will let you know the amount.

I would think that it would be proper that you affirm receipt of my June 4 letter with its tax allocations and record of decisions at the May 30 meeting. I would like to know if you are prepared to accept the Corporation's offer to purchase the seven shares for the sum of $7,000. If you do accept it moves must be got underway by the Corporation to raise this money which posses some problems, for as you know the corporation has no reserves.

Since I am at the center of things I am particularly anxious to move to a satisfactory settlement of these matters--but I am sure everyone else is too. The delays are costing money.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

July 14, 1982
Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y2K2

Anne and Gorge Mill
9 Mountview Ave.,
Huntsville, Ont. P0A1K0

Joe—?

Dear Anne and George:

I understand that Joe acquainted you with the book by Ian Angus on the early days of the Canadian CP and the Left Opposition. I have written a critique of the book which I would like you to have the opportunity to read. I had occasion when trying to come to grips with this book to phone Joe about a couple of aspects of it....and he affirmed my worst impressions of it. When I came to write the review I came to understand that there are some fundamental problems with it from the point of view of methodologiy. It is inevitable that it would not do justice to either Jaclk MacDonald or Maurice Spector and all their contemporaries such as yourselves.

I had been intending to do some wiriting on this period but when Angus moved in on it I pulled back. Now I am being driven to reconsider the whole matter. The Angus book and my comments could serve as a stimulant. I have decided to send copies of my review to as many persons as I can contact, to obtain copies of the book for anyone who wants it, and thereby get the old juices flowing. There are some things that I must work on now. Then sometime early this fall I think we should be able to get some of us together to exchange views and opinions.

I am sending a few extra copies of the review to you in case you can think of some persons who might want to read it and who might want to contribute to this process. I will be getting in touch with you later. I am looking forward to hear any thoughts you may have on this matter

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

July 28/82

Brian Palmer
Simon Fraser

Dear Brian;

I am enclosing a copy of a circular that I think you must have already received in the course of the SRDF mailing. But just in case-- I could think of no reason why you would object to the use put of your article in Our Generation.

I am also enclosing a copy of the Summer issue of Forward. I want you to see how I handled the Angus book. I have yet to see a serious review of it. Rodney made a few critical comments on the questionable character of the use Angus made of newspaper clippings in the Globe and Mail. I found it somewhat tricky to gapple with-- particulary when I am in general agreement with its aim. ....although I found that I had to formulate that too---that the crime of the CP has been(instead of gathering cadre for the revolutionary party) its actual destruction of potential cadre. A couple of the comrades upon reading the review and its devstating critique of Angus ' method though that it didn't summarize sharply enough. But I told them that I wanted to keep any personal element out of the critique and didn't mind at all if the review didn't cross all the ts and dot all the is.

I understand from a friend that you appeared at the unveiling in Vancouver. I appeared at the Toronto one before they could get the book to me for a serious evaluation. But I made a few cautious criticisms--the failure to note the genesis of the book--- at the Waterloo-Guelph conference and my speech the the biggest Trotskyist rally in Canada yet. The theme at that conference was that the LSA-LSO-YS-LJS were the continuators of the Guelph convention-- we had a big display ait some historic photos of Spector and MacDonald copies of all the ealry press--announced the launching of a theoretica journal and the preparations of a history of the movement. It is al laughable that Garry O'Brien becomes the subject of attack with regar to Spector when it was I who raised Spector's tentative comments on the national question. Angus blandly ignored a double page critique I made of the Penner book which raised many of the questions.

From you As a trained historian I would appreciate hearing , reading a your opinion of the raveiw--or receiving a copy of anything that you wrote on it. I do not see how the RWL can ignore my comments. which I am now anxious to get widely circulated amongst Cdn historians who will come in contact with the book

I hope you think the review sincerely
worthwhile and can come up with
some ideas as to how we can get it around Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

— first draft letter (?) sent Aug 17 1982

David Garon, Montreal

Dear Dave:

I must apologize for being so long in answering your interesting, your inspiring letter. Here I am supposed to be retired but [redacted] as busy as ever. This morning I had to get the 11 o'clock mail to inform Forward and associates that we are going ahead with a Harvest weekend over Saturday and Sunday next out at a lodge that some of us own on 26 acres just north of Napanee on the Salmon River. The Salmon is between the Trent and the Rideau Rivers Or between Trenton and Kingston. We are going down Saturday and will be staying overnight for a big feast Sunday afternoon. Is it possib that you could come down by bus of train which we could meet?

And I have just come in from canvassing for our NDP aldermanic candidate in the apartment that I live in---some 500 apartments. Tonight I came across Jim Faulds who you might remember ran for the Ontario leadership along with Bob Rae and Richard Johnston. The apartment was occupied for a period by Cassidy when he was leader--it must belong to the party or someone very close. I invited him to come up and see me sometime when he comes home sometime after a hard day at the Queen's Park gas house . We already have th two Board of Education members for the ward and we are running a Jack Layto to take the place of Dan Heap who is now in the federal house. It is good to see that no mention is made in our literature of former Mayor Sewell who is running for the other aldermainc post. I fought hard and long to get us to run a canaidate against Sewell who last election was very openly supporte while not official by the NDP. This time not a word is said about Sewell. A couple of weeks ago I attended candidates worshop to distribute a letter calling on the Metro NDP council to reconsider the running of a mayor--we got a good hearing in the debate several months ago but lost. I am sure everyone thought that it was a move to open the door for myself to run as an independent NDPer--possibly you know I have run before for mayor of Toronto-- On one ocassion the Star commenced an editorial that it was a shocking thing that one in five citizens who voted in Toronto the good cast their ballots for a man who wants a bloody revolution -- of course all I want is just a revolution--they added the blood. Believe me, I was tempted, but our Forward Group just doesn't have the resources

Friday and Saturday were taken up by a conference of the Left Caucus The attendance wasn't what we had hoped but it came off. We finally got agreement on a statement of purposes for the caucus and after a committee goes over it it will be printed up. A small matter but it was hard to get this far. Everyone knows that there is a need to form and build a left, a socialist wing--I proposed we call it the Socialist Caucus.-- but there appear to be hesitations to allocate the time and energy to build it. On the other hand there is a move afoot to present a counter manifesto to the one the leadership is now preparing. As you know the founding NDP convention failed to adopt such a fundamental statement of purpose. The brass got rid of the Regina Manifesto with the watershed Crossland Winnipeg Declaration but there has long been an awareness of having to have a manifest of somekind and it now appears to be in the works. A recent issue of Agenda published a one page concept of what they propose but that is all that is available. And now some of the left caucus are all-out for a counter

manifesto. Moves were made to strike off a committee to draft it . I interve ed to try to slow this down--to open up discussion in the course of which we could hope to really consider our intervention. The Left Caucus is far from homogeneous and the question is will the preparation of a manifesto set off a process of differentiation or will it lead to a higher unity. It must do the latter.

Is the Quebec NDP going to participate in the formulation of a new manifesto? Are you on the national committee-provincial council of the NDP? In the discussion of the Left Caucus statement of purpose, to the point identifying the cuacus with the right of self-determination of the Quebecois I added --up to and including separation.

So you can see that we here despite our xxxxxx lack of correspondence are alive and very much interested in your writing for Forward. From what you have told me I by no means think that there is any impediment to your writing for Forward from your end. It is all at this end. The moving of our files and possessions last month to a much better space and now the Fall activities, and I must say the always present problem of priorieis plagues us. It is difficult to retain our crdibility in the ridings--particularly since this year is the year of municipal elections (three year terms in Ontario now) without doing a fair bit until November 8th xxxxxxxxxxxx which also fortunately encompasses Disarmament Week October 2 28 which will see most of us up at the Ottawa demonstration against the Cruise Missile on October 30.

My earlier suggestion that you might be able to join us at what we call Camp Poundmaker this coming weekend seems quite impractical since you will at best only have received this note hours before. But it would be very good if there is a Montreal contingent going up to Ottawa on the 30th. I would think that several of us to get together for a few hours at that time. Let me know so we could make the arrangements

I gather from other preson's experiences that Deutscher's biography of Trotsky is a good point at which to start with Trotsky. I found the book for all its great value quite irritating, its style resulting in all kinds of tnseions which if you are aquainted with the themes are unnecessar ahd some of them even false. I had the good fortune of being introduced to Trotsky's autobiographywhich Deutscher highly prises but notes ends off about 1934. Trotsky's most important writing is his three volume History o the Russian Revolution which Deutscher notes. ..a unique work--by a particp ipant in every stage of the great drama, a persons who understood better than any one the laws that determined its course and a great literary sylis to boot. A freind of mine who had quite a bit of time at his disposal seriously attempted to read it once a year..I have managed to read it thoroughly twice and of course have had many ocassions to consult it. His Revolution Betrayed remias the most important analysis of contempory USSR --although Deutcher's The Unfinished Revolution is also very good

The History is in many ways a handbook of xxxxxxxxxxxx revolution and not just the revolution but the socialist revolution of our days. There are several other books of LT that have also great pertinence to the problems of the socialist revolution in general. Leon Trotsky on Britain --a brilliant and timley poelemic with parliamentary socialism as we know it in Britain and of course relevant to its Canadian variants. As a work o theoretical analyiss and polemic In Defence of Marxism is without peer

(ends)

Forward
Box 778,
Adelaide Street P.O.
Toronto

Aggust 17, 1982

David Garon
7221 Dunver Crescent
Verduh, Quebec

Dear David Garon:

I must apologize on behalf of all of us about the long delay in answering your very welcome letter of June 11. As you can imagine it is not everyday that wecget someone writing in offering to write for Forward. Wayne usually haddles correspondence however he has been under great pressure the last month or two. The Labor Studies Dept at McMaster has been liquidated in the interests of economy- meaning he now has no job and and the only real link betwwwn McMaster and the Hamilton labor movement which he furiously cultivated while he was there has been ~~xmtmrmd~~ ruptured. Since then he has been commuting between Toronto and Ottawa while working at the CLC labor program and picking up the odd dollar in a series that he has been doing here in Toronto for CBC. He has now gone off for a much needed holiday and so I have picked up your letter.

Of course as you must have concluded all of us are in the NDP and involved as much as ~~xmxtkmxkx~~ possible and we think useful. If you are in the NDP you no doubt appreciate that there is always a danger of getting swamped in routine work that diverts you from the responsiblity of perparing yourself politically to play the role that the socialists must play in the party in future developments.

I take for granted that you are a member of the NDP, although from what we hear of the Quebec section it would not supriae me to hear that you are not. We do not have any real connection with anyone in the Quebec NDP although we would very much like to have a connection. In our opinion the federal leadership of the party ,its failure to recognize the national aspirations of the Quebec people and their right as a nation to self determination is the biggest single barrier to the development of the party. I would think that the major forces who would be attracted to a labor party up until quite recently at anyrate have been attracted to the P.Q. or even to La Mouvement Socialiste. Earlier this year we carried a major article on the Manifesto that the Committee of One Hundred published. I will send you a copy of this issue under separate cover.

Recently a friend picked up a couple of copies of a very attractive paper that group is now publishing. Unfortunately some one sneaked away with them before I couldgo through this paper --in one issue there was a report of their progresswhich at the time I thought we would consider translating for our readers. Are you acquaited with this development?

Yes, we would very much like to start a collaboration. But we need in order to get it under way and to be really fruitful an exchange of ideas and experiences. Much as we would like Forward to be a mass paper that could carry anything and everything of interest and concern to the working class we are a very small paper with limited resources and forces at its dispoasl which must be deployed with care. From this end, since I will be sending you copies of the last several issues the task is not too hard, You will be able to examine the paper which is nothing if not forthright. I would be very happy to take any matters that concern you. Your responses would be very useful in order mark out areas of codlaboration. Better still of course would be a visit from you to Toronto. Among us we could put you up and arrange some useful exchhanges

I am sending off the papers tomorrow. I am looking forward to head your reaction to the various views we have expressed in its pages and of course to get an idea of what connections you have and what you yourself think you can contribute.

Incidently we distribute a considerable number of copies of Forward in radical circles free. If you think you have opportunities to help circulate the paper we would be pleased to send extra oopies along.

Speaking for myself I am thinking of suggesting to our editrrial board that the next issue carry an evaluation of the En Lutte group which was for some years the largest radical (ultra-left unfortunately) group in Montreal. It has just gone through the experience of liquidating itself. Are you acquatinted with this group. I am looking for material particularly related to its last days and what is happening to its forces.

It was very good to receive your letter--and we are looking for ard to hearing from you so that we can start to work out a collaboration useful to the development of a socialist Canada

with socialist greetings

Rose Dowson

I have just received notification that our suit against the RCMP will be coming up in the Small Claims Court here on October 12. Have you been following the case of Dowson V the RCMP--I willsend you some of the material that has been appearing in previous issues of Forward.

August 19, 1982
R. Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y2K2

Bryan Palmer, Simon Frazer

Dear Bryan;

Thanks for so quickly and so detailed-ly commenting on my revue of the Angus book. I appreciate it very much and by no means ~~is~~ am I offended by any of it or antagonized by any of it. I am suprised that it even crosses your mind that I might be. Your comments are completely ~~xxxxxx~~ political and made in the interests of arriving at a clearer understanding not only of the past episodes but problems that continue to confront my own concerns--the building of a revolutionary vanguard party here in Canada.

Thanks for bringing to my attention Desmond Morton's comments in Social History/ Histoire Sociale. No doubt you have seen the Abella review in the Canadian Forum.

I am suprised that ~~xxx~~ you think some of my remarks are unduly snarky. Of course I really meant that comment about"painstaking research" There is no question that on Ian's part, who I know very well, that it is a labor of love into which he poured his time and energy without restraint. And while it is not an "official" history, from his ideitifcation of the many debts he ~~xx~~ owes to various comreades it involves the political acumen of the leading cadre of the RWL. That is why I am suprised-as I very consciously and presistantly restrined myself in my critique, as I see it.

Some of the comrades here thought that the review is full of pulled punches---that having prepared knock-out blows ~~xxxxx

the material that Penner subsequently used. Roger Bray who headed up the verterans there was in or around our group and I had all his material and had several talks with him. The article was very shortly after picked up and reproduced in the Sask Commonwaelth by Skip Hambling, editor at the time. But they did not reproduse an editorial comments that Angus took it upon himself to add. When I checked it out I found that it was a somewhat muddled criticism of my article along the line that while I presented a vivid and accurate picture of the struggle and in part I suppose of its significance I missed the fact that it was really a revolution, a revolution--missed. ..if not betrayed. Well here it is again and in a broader context.

my writing allowed you to

I am sorry that ~~you~~ consider that I am of the opinion that nothing critical can be said of MacDonald---and I suppose Spector. It is just inacceptable to me that a serious Marxist study would present as Jack MacDonalds considered opinion that the Third Period was a wlecome one and that Murice Spector's considered opinion ~~that~~ the CPC's political difficulties were MacDonald's fault. Regardless of what you or others may think of the Third Period I know what MacDonald thought as he had many ocassions to express himself and in wiriting . Of course I read Angus's material on Buck and knowthis ~~view~~--but he tempted me, he asked for that parting jab--he left himself open too it---I confess , I couldn't resist.

I do not hold any brief for Rodney or for Draper but I must admit ~~that~~ that I cannot understand Angus' prupose in dismissing their observations which happen to be correct on top of it. Yes I understand why Buck said the party before he did his work was Trotskyist--at that time that was the hate word in the circles that he was miseducating and served to build him up at that time on par with Stalin--but for me Trotskyism is not a new movementbut is and was the continuity of Bolshevism and there is a certain truth ,more profound than Buck realized at the time that the basic cadre of the CPC, being Bolsheviks as they understood it were unconscious Trotskyists--and those who didn't leave had to be got rid of. ---Angus figures on the destruction of the early cadre in short order were very interesting such.

From the view of Marxist historiography the Angus book is a disaster. I tried to express this, free from petty factionalism. If one thinks that and it is true ,it has to be expressed.

After the fears that you expressed about what the bourgeois historian and the social democrats may do I found that both Abella and Morton dealt with the book in a not unfriendly way, in a not-inkindly way, if that word can be used to describe what is in reality a polite rcognition of its existenace and dismissal of it. I can't get excited about the use of the word Trotskyite by Morton . After all Trotsky has won the dispute on the Russian Question--is it an attempt to play on backward prejudices that we are a sect-a cult-worshippers--or does it even have anti-semitic connotations? It seems hardly worth bothering about. When I am called that I just dismiss it--oh yes, for those actively involeved in the socialist movement that demarks me from Stalinism-- I am a Marxist--a socialist--like Seven Day Adventists and Baptists are Christians..ok .

I am afraid that Angus' whole approach to his subject invites dismiss ---as interesting, a historic episode with little if any relevance to the socialist struggles of today. My first reaction was against its title--Canadian Bolsheviks. At one time we fought for that banner and correctly so but I no longer do so. We are past that phase. Nagus treats the CPC as largely irrelevant today. That is whay I tried in my re-

view to present as Angus' theme that the CP was a cadre gathering formation---not a party ~~that mixed~~ and insofar as it continues to have significance now a devourer and destroyer of revolutionary cadre--which I plead guilty--is not exactly his theme. Bolshevism was a Russian experience--of the Russian revolutionary socialists--we have alwyas been for its Canadianization--its assimilation by the Canadian Mrxists-Leminists-Trotskyists. Not only is the title wrong but the book is consistant with the title. In the beginning was not the Canadian working class, its Marxists- its impossibilists and its opportunists and its plain confused. In the beginning ,according to Angus is the October R volution and its impact on the Canadian working class. But these Canadian Marxists were undergoing big experiences of their own--in the early Fowrd there are some extremely interesting discussions on reform and revolution and the relation one to the other--they were grappling with the concept that we now know as a transitional program. Along came the Bolsheviks-Lenin with Left Wing Communism (one of the first of his works published by the Canadian Marxists)who played a key role in clarifying this and much more. Then we have Spector who is not what others have said he is and then MacDonald, nct up to much either. As Morton can say "there is not much reference to anyone else either, beyond the limited circle of Communist chieftans" There is a drama--no heros, just villans and failures, there is no context--political economy--just revolution missed and counter-revolution. Yes it is suprising that Angus didn't really devote some time and energy to J.S. Woodsworth who with the NDP is a living figure. He played a very important role in the early days

As you probably know Woodsworht sent in regular material to the Worker for publication--asa member of parliament he was thrust into dealing with the "Canadian Question" which the Marxists of the time tended to ignore or dismiss as just being of concern to reformists and parlaor revolutionists. If possible sometime in the next period I intend to pull some of this material together for publication as a pamphlet. Perhaps ycu recall we published his devestating comments on the RCMP when they were esablished as the federal police. Yes there was an opportunity to make the book more relevant and at the same time to take him on--the saint in politics who ended up urning the leadership of his party over to Coldwell who could shamlessly support WWII. Th e best thing I ever read on the OBU was by MacDonald--I am going to try to publish some of this.

To be completely frank with you after I grappled with this book and wrote the review, it worried me that while not at all having this aim I destroyed Angus as a Marxist historian

---perhaps I should be relieved to see that you do not at all think so. And so we have lots to discuss next time our paths cross.

with best regards

Ross

I added some comment from the Angus book quoted in RD review- on the naive concept that a revolution is a sudden rebellion

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE TORONTO N D P

August 21, 1982

To the NDP Metro Area Council, c/o: David Tomczak, 375 Montrose Ave. (536-6561) Toronto

Among the many matters discussed by this spring's area convention was the question of our participation in Toronto municipal politics where, given recent successes in the Board of Education arena, we will be fielding the greatest number of candidates ever. While a motion to present a mayoralty candidate was voted down at that time the matter was left open pending possible developments that might cause us to reconsider.

In my opinion, and I am sure in the opinion of many others, several developments are now well into the works that must now cause us to take a second hard look at this question. There are at least four major ones, unanticipated at that time, that are pressing us to head up our efforts with a strong mayoralty candidate.

(1) Despite all the efforts of our federal members and in the face of the opposition of the organized labor movement, the Ottawa Liberal machine has imposed wage controls on all federal civil servants and is now widening its campaign, with the Ontario Liberals agitating for the imposition of a freeze on the entire work force. Toronto's closet-Liberal Mayor Eggleton is using the high prestige of his office to advocate the imposition of controls on Toronto civic employees. Thus this cardinal challenge to the working people of all Canada is a primary issue in the coming Toronto elections.

(2) The number of unemployed in the Toronto area is reaching crisis proportions, particularly among the youth and women workers. This is already having a devastating impact on the lives of all of us and the so-called experts see it as only deepening. Thousands, now exhausting their UI benefits, are having to go on welfare, imposing new strains on the already overburdened municipal tax structure.

(3) The longtime shortage of affordable rental housing in the Toronto area is approaching an explosive state. Rent controls are fast becoming a sham. It is now apparent that recent financial speculations by Toronto's largest landlords are about to blast away what remains of them and result in a wave of horrendous rent gougings that will cause new forces to look to our party for solutions.

(4) The new wave of concern among all levels of the population about the arms drive and the threat of a nuclear holocaust has placed the question of nuclear disarmament on the ballot. This development alone is giving a whole new dimension to the coming election enabling our party (which after all is Canada's anti-war party) to not only be, but to actually appear, and to become in fact the necessary mass fighting party of the working people of Toronto, Ontario and all Canada.

This situation which is a challenge to our party, should we fail to respond with our own candidate, is almost certain to cause others now standing in the wings to enter the race. Should John Sewell, who our party on unchallengable grounds does not support, respond to the probable last-chance entry of Tony O'Donahue, there is little doubt that his efforts would gravely cut into the precious resources that we are mobilizing for our aldermanic campaigns. Thus all logic compels us to seize the opportunity presented by this Toronto election, which will not come again for a long and difficult three years, to enter our candidate for Mayor of Toronto. A good campaign and a high vote, even should we fail to win, will lay the basis for success next time. It is later than we all think and time is running out.

I am submitting this letter to MTAC executive for its consideration and would be pleased to participate in its discussion.

Sincerely,

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson (St. George)
961-4554

81-1978-83 For Ward 6 NDP (1975? Re
on party label

Copy to Dave Tax Cred)

So that our coming municipal election efforts profit from the clear public identity of our party(s candidates with the party label in both the federal and provincial arena--Ward 6 NDP proposes that MTAC take a stand that all endorsed or ~~supported~~ nominated candidates clearly identify themselves as candidates of the NDP

Moved that the Ward 6 NDP call upon the federal executive to clearly dissociate our party from the Saskatchewan NDP pearlimanetary caucus' passage through the Saskatchewan house of a vicious anti-labor strike breaking act against the Sasktchewan hospital workers

and that we call upon the Saskatchewan party executiveto immediately and publicly dissociate itself from the Saskatchewan NDP parliamentary caucus' action

and that we make known this position to the mass media at once.

so that there is no mistaking our ~~party's position~~ official position of our party during the current Saskatchewan provincial election campaign

remove
carried
If Metro approves the motion he would be available to the nominations

Ross Dowson
40 Homewood Ave,#2311
Toronto M4Y 2K2
August 26, 1982

Gampel, Niagara Falls

Dear Sam;

Having run out of all possible reasons and excuses I take up the letter I have long owed you, and all the more urgently as I suddenly realize that I intended to enclose with it an article that I am somewhat anxious to get into your hands

I am referring to my review of the Angus book in the enclosed issue of Forward. Your introductory comments in your May 17 letter stimulate me. I had intended to write the book that has appeared under the authorship of I an Angus. ~~Khenxth~~ I had made many preparations for that book ~~pxxtimxxhxxxky~~ ahd somwwhat methodically, following the biggest gathering that the LSA-LSO ever held back in the summer of 1971. I made the major speech at an educati conference attended by something like 400 mostly youth on Fifty- Years-of-Revolutionary Socialsim 1921 to 1971. --linking the LSA to the founding cadre of the Communist Party. Following that I myself systematically wrote the obiturary of Spector, of Max Armstrong, reviewed the Rodney book on the subject and encouraged interviews with Malcolm Bruce etc--building up anm archive. When the Angus book came out, even though I knew I would disagree with parts of it I figured that it would fill the gap. I accepted the invitation to adress the small gathering when the book was re eased and then read it--I only got the copy on the very eve of the gathering and so could not feed into it propcerly.

Then I read the book---and now I have written a major review of it in Forward. After first read I phoned Meslin, who also spoke at the gathering, about certain aspects of the book which even on a casualreading caused me great uneasiness --the obvious discounting of Spector withcut the slightest historic justification but even worse the methodology of the book--with its schematic presentation of the post W WI upsurge as a revolution and the twenties as a couter-revolution. I phoned Joe Meslin about these and other aspects and was suprised to learn that he had not even been interviewed by Angus. I asked him about Angus attack on the CLDL and the fight against Section 98. He told me that he had never heard even small talk that the CP had srewed up the defence and went on to tell me that he and Clirmont ~~xxxxxxxx~~ were talking with Spector and Spector told them that h had been talking to CPers responsible for working out the defence about his giving them a hand since he was a lawyer with the defence--and that Spector told them that some leading personalities(three or four years after his expulsion)~~xxxx~~seriously raised the matter of promoting his readmission back into the CP. This response by Meslin truly astonished me. Joe at that time had not even got around to reading the book.

Your few comments in your letter also interest me and so I have decided as soon as we clear up the most pressing aspects of our suite against the RCMP in the next month or so that I should do something about the history of the movement. For sometime I have thought we should republish some of Spector and MacDonald's better articles in the Worker and that we should move towards writing some essays on their contribution and the times.

Your comments about MacDonald taking a dim view of the petit bourgeois character of the forces at the disposal of the LO and the WP is intriguing and you must put more dowm. I have sent off my review to George and Anne Mill. Nick and Mary Oleniuk are interested. Their daughter Carol is writing up a protrait of her mother who was an activist in the Ukrainian movement and particularly its women groupings

RCMP

On the suitx-- the date has now been set for the Small Claims hesring coming up October 12--our appeal coming in the same month and no doubt the UN report in roughly the same period

On the basis of your enthusiasm I have read Singers Road to Gdansk ---and used it as the framework for a very useful class. It would seem possible that August 31 might be an explosion. As you will probably gather from the short item in the enclosed issue of Forward we are working in the milieu. Our former friends in the Revolutionary Workers League wont touch this movement which has very firm connections in the trade union movement because of the pro-Reagen and strong Catholic line of the heads of the Polish National Congress. I must get some copies of the committees bulletin. When ICP fgally translated MyKuron's open letter I got it set for Forward but then the Information Bulletin published it in its entirety. They have put out two bulleting since then--one with the various responses within the underground to Kuron's letter and a second containing almost a verbatim report of the conference here in Toronto which among other things contain an impressive update by some Polis Professor here based on underground information and Le Monde. He writes that there were over 1,000 undergound dailies being published and circulatec despite military law

for

I appreciate your enthusiasm and your synopsis of a portion of Mandel's Chapter 4 (Lomg Waves) in Late Capitalism. Last month I decided tc put aside a week to seriously come to grips with that work. Despite that determination I only got into Chapterc& 7. I find it really tough going --toughher than when I read Capital----my problem-as Mandel is not only a supremely informed and innovative writer but a clear onetoo. I do not know whether you are aware but I know Rrnest Mandel quite well. I worked wit him in Bruxxelles off and onx for xmsmuxpxs several months. My experience is limited but I have never met a person with such a brilliant facile, penet rating mind. What a linguist! I heard him during a major speech by Pablo followx its translation with interjections and correctionsxn while it was being presented in at least 5 languages. X Anything and everything by Mande is worth studying--although strangely enough in his desire to see the revolution and the FI make a revolutionary breakthrough he has at times bee instrumental in disorienting it. It was Mandel that presented, carried and f fought for guerrilla warfare as a continental strategy that so badly dis- oriented the movement.

•I know Gunder Frank also but not as well. I met him at McGill Universirty where he as on staff in the late sixties. He is an "independent" Marxist and a real authority on Latin merica. He is more than a serious scholar because he has identified himself with various revolutionary causes he has had endless difficulties with the immigration departments of many states

But I must tear away---tommorrow we have to move again and I must get down to Adeliaide to make things ready

beat regards

40 [illegible] ave, #231
Toronto, [illegible] 2A2

September 19, 1982

Dear Anne;

I have been intending to write you for sometime now--and now it may even be somewhat superflous for as I typed in the date I see we are only a matter of days ~~xxx~~ from the Toronto left caucus conference and meeting which is featuring Dave Patterson Ottawaian Marv Gandle ~~xxx~~ which you are possibly going to attend

Thanks for the copy of <u>I Will Survive</u>. Just what I wanted. Most gift I get I h ave difficulty expressing thanks for. Like Art Gray's "thought ful present of a calendar ispired by B.C. Indian art but whose craftsmen had a better tase for money than the subtleties of of the Haidas--or the a;parent black soapstone Lion Ruthxx brought all the way from Egypt which aside from its bad design turns out to be shoe-polished chalk. (mums the word) This september 4 however Ruth and Lois gave me money and today I came home with 4 volumes of a series of book called Monuments of Civilization--Egypy, Ancient Cambodia, Inia and Japan. I have had my ey on this series for sometime now and finally today they turned up at Edwar bookstore at $8.99. The Egypt volume has the best quliaty colour photos I have everseen of Karnak and of those collosal statues tgat Shelley wro his poem --"My name is Ozymadias, king of kings
Look at my works, ye Mighty and despair !
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

---how are the mighty fallen

So Lois and Ruth gave me four volumes of a set of books that I have had my eyes on for a long time. And I <u>will survive</u> has such verve and such an infectious beat. I havent had a chance to look over the replacement for the mug that you broke. I was loaded down at the time and was afrid that I might break it if I took it along. No matter.I was putting my garbage down the shute the other day and found someone had left a nice glass mug like the broken one with the very educational inscriptions on it of the metric conversion of pounds ounces etc .Henceforth I am going to see that you get to use things of mine that have fallen out of or were never in favor since you quarantee replacement

I finally got Denis' letter and I have sent off in return several articles that I have come across that will be valuable to get him in the picture of what is possible to write on science in a workers paper. The most interesting I pulled out of a new posh magazine that the British Labo party is putting out called I think The New Socialism . Tariq has an aretivle in it incidently. The article in the spirit of the environmental sts and the opponents of nuclear science challenges the ent re concept of progress- a key concept of Marxism in my opinion--you know--small is beuatiful etc, and

xxxm I have yet to write him but I will do so as soon as I

straighten out a few more details with our new office. John Darling did us the favor of telling us that he needed on the worst way the space that he has been renting us to mind his print shop. He got a new and bigger press, a new cutter etc. So I got us what is a very nice room at 145 1/2 Chruch Street, just north of Allen, above Williamson's pawn shop. Our files have not been in working shape since we moved off Yates Street because we never had the space and the time. We now have the space and I am prepared to make the time. It is going to cost us double--175 a mont We are going to have to jack up our finances.

Incidently--about Tariq Ali. Through New Left Review and associates ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ he has launched a new left wing in the Labor Party of Gr Br I dont know whether I told you that he was over here several months back. He spoke in Toronto under the auspices of the Marxist Institute and in Ottawa too under the auspices of Panich. I was so busy with other matters at the time that I foggot about it. But there is a lengthy interview with him in Canadian Dimenisonwhere he expounds a view that I expressed to the British comrades over a decade ago---I was tellin, them to get in the BLP and build a Trotskyist left wing while they were crying "let it bleed" in the apparent belief that the difficulties of the LP and its decline had nothing to do with the difficulties of the class. In the inte iew he goes out of the way to ridicule the RWL and the so-called idustria implantation of its cadre in the unions.

I hope you were able to put the Summer issue of Forward to good use. We had some excellent distributions and now only have a handful left-- We did the labor day demos in Toronto and ~~xxx~~in Hamilton abd we did the big teachers demonstration in Toronto along with the civil servants demo- so everyone knows that we have now no alternative but to get to work on the next issue. Alas the date of the small claims court hearing has been again delayed. The lawyers that Ottawa retains are nothing but the best ---in the main suit it was Genet--the appeal to the Supreme court it was Robineete and now it is the son of Bora Laskin himself. It seemsthat he had a tennis match scheduled for October 12 and we had not much alterp native but to agree to his request for postponment --he expressed a strong desire on the grounds of the importance of the case that Harry should go along with the delay. I see that the courts are giving the Quebec governments dynamite theft charges the heave-ho, switching around their appoinrments to the new Seciruty Service--and generally dissipating all public interest in the Canadian Watergate. We need our small claims project in the worst way to reopen interest in our suit and to raise some funds.

Gordon D

Did ~~xxx~~ contact you re an NDP presence in the anti-war action in Ottawa. The NDP brass is quite reluctant to do more than make the record but there is a slowly developing core of NDPers who want to move out which is very important if we hope to have the NDP provide a miliau for socialist activity.

Incidently we are planning a bit of a jaunt to the camp on the Thanksgiving Day Weekend- possibly going up Sunday, staying overnight for the Monday holiday. I managed to get up to clear away the garbage refrigerators, get a new one(to us), paint the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ceiling of the lodge with Lois' help etc--all I have to do is pick up a new elements for the new(to us) stove and we will be able to have a roasted turkey. The Montreal RWL still hasn't responded to my jolt to try and settle to camp situation but the other dya John Riddell wrote me a note which would appear to break the front--for a separate settlement. We will no doubt be moving again on this as I sent them the hydro bill for the season.

Did you see this article in Globe and Mail with the lengthy report on the all-out assault on the British Militant group. Doubtless it will have some impact on our [illegible]--with the Ottawa NDP brass taking more and more their l[illegible] International developments. We will be carrying a major article in the coming issue. In this respect our Left Caucus(toronto) xxxxthe Waffle xxtxx forum proved to be of value. John B(Ottawa) contribution was very good. I hope you picked up the Tuesday G & M.

North Hatley sent me a special senior citizens card that gives discount prices on ice cream as a birthday gift--but I havent locate a n[illegible] by outlet--I must get moving on this

Near

all the best

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
oronto, M4Y 2K2
October 8, 1982

David Garon
7221 Dunver Crescent
Verdun, Quebec, H4H 2H6

Dear Dave:

October 8 and your letter is dated September 14th. Terrible. And the process with the paper is even worse. You wouldn't think that there would have to be an argumentfor a professional leadership. It is obvious that nothing at all can be achieved without one. And in Lenin's time and in backward Europe not to speak of Russia when you consider what modern capitali in America has at its disposal--TV, computers space satellites etc etc. As Marx once noted--the revolution needs the whip-lash of the counter-revolution. Caldwell, Lewis ,always saw capitalism as a tolerable system--at leas the form it took on here and in Europe with the colonial masses only occasionally disrupting the parlour room calm---but it is becoming increasingly intolerable for many more North Americans. They are starting to breath on the backs of the trade union brass as in Windsor-Chrysler and I anticipate shortly on the NDP brass. With the Saskatchewan debacle the Commonwealth is is shifting left. With us it's our few numbers and a matter of priorities. Let us hope that their breath helps to straighten out our sanse of priorities.

This morning I had only got out of bed when I got a phone call from my neice in Ottawa about contacting my nephew withregards to aThanksgiving weeke the Forward group and friends are holding over the weekend out at Salmon River (Bay of Quinte-Napanee) then another call from Harry Kopyto as to what could be done about the Law Society brass throwing their prestige as the firs professional society behind the Ontario Tory governments depriving the government employees of their bargaining rights through the 6 and 5 wage freeze. Harry along with Paul Copeland and Mike Mandel are leading activists in what is known as the Law Union which has supplied much help in our suit against the RCMP. And then the mail brought a letter from a leading NDP wr in the Windsor area bemoaning his isolation and wanting to be put in contact with the Left Caucus (NDP) Just before writing off this note I wrote him back --a short report on the Left Caucus conference last weekend here in Toronto. The first item on the agenda of the caucus 6 days ago was getting its forces now caught up in the municipal election campaign to get involved i the anti-war movement. I couldn't resist. I told him about the caucus involv in the anti-war committee holding a forum here in Toronto on October 27 as a contribution to Disarmament Week and the building of the Ottawa demo gainst t Cruise Missile on October 30. I suggest that he attempt to mobilize something in Windsor area and that he contact the Toronto committee in particular Gord ctorow or Art Jaszczyk to go down and address it. I hope that he can respond and also that he doesn't finger me to Gord or Art as the person who pushed the project.

Are you going to be able to come up to Ottawa on October 30. It will be an important and impressive demo. We are hoping that the Ottawa left caucu will be able to provide some facilities so that NDPers and potential NDPers can get together form connections instead of just marking up the street and back again. If you are going up to Ottawa let me know and we can make arrang nts so that we can spend some time together. I would think that there will be

uses going up from Montreal.... if not arranged by NDPoperations ,some other forces. There is one area where the official party position is very good NATO-NORAD - Cruiseetc. It was strenghtned in reaction to Broadbent's call for its revision when he came out in support of the Carter Doctrine - but it is carefully kept under wraps. In the fight against the steady deterioration o the party into crass electoralism these positions provide us an area ofvactiv that can attract elements to the party who will be most open to our socialist viewpoint.. The Toronto committee is haivng buttons made --Build Canada's Anti-War Party--the NDP

So you can see, despite our lack of correspondence we are here and very much interested in your writing for Forward. The only impendiment to your writing for Forward is at this end and not any feeling on our part that you are not able to make a useful contribution--we have to get our act together here. We had to move our offices-our files-about a month ago and I have now g it in workable order .What I would suggest is that you prepare some material that there is in my opinion not the slightest doubt that we would want to use

Why dont you write up a column ~~mxmxtxmxi~~ on developments and problems that confront Quebec socialists. Ernest Mandel used to write such a column fo the US Militant on Europe. Quebec is just as much an unknown to the rest of the Canadian labor and socialist movement as Europe--probably more so as the Canadian news media pays less attention to it than it dows to Europe. It could take on something of the form of Oh Canada now appearing in Forward. ...three or four items of comment on developments there that you consider should be of interest to socialists both there and elsewhere. What is happeni in the NDP--even as a parliamentry force the NDP cannot get anywhere in Ottaw without a strong base in Quebec, probably the absence of such a base is a pow ful pressure on the NDP brass ~~tmxmxmk~~ in its opportunist relations with the Liberals. Itsfanatical commitment to the Canadian bourgeois national state blocks it from cutting into the base of the ~~PQx~~ independentist PQ. Because of its class base which always causes the bourgeois party par excellence to question its loyality--the Broadbents have to be more loyal and the Queen herself. In a recent issue of the Sask Commonwealth Phil Resnick makes a lenghty contribution urging fusion of the NDP with the PQ. No doubt this has been long taking place but not on a reciprical basis but workers who woul from a class point of view belong to the NDP rejecting it to join the PQ. Resnick's views would be worth commenting on- I assume that the Montreal offi gets the Commonwelath--since the latter is a weekly it may be 8 or 10 issues back.

and Lutte Ouvriere

Trotskyism is a braod current now but there are two main tendencies-- those forces around the American SWP ~~inCanx~~ in Canada, the Revolutionary Workers Party who publish Socialist Voice and promote Pathfinder Press whose main office is in Montreal and European Tortskists around the French paper Rouge and whose leading theoretician in Ernest Mandel. Their group in Montrea recently liquidated itself in the Mouvement Socialiste. You in Montreal are blessed with another group called there Groupe Socialiste Travail (grammar) which has some ~~intxthemxmathamxmmmxmxt~~ university intellectuals around it and also some modest roots in a few unions--Montreal bus drivers. They publish Tribune Ouvri re . If you were able to follow them you would obtain an idea of what some persons who think of themselves are Marxists conceinve of as key issues before the Quebec left. I am not suggesting that we would concentrate on addressing ourselves to their concern but it would give you ar idea several groups of Marxists see as the key issues. Being an English language paper with its essential forces oriented to and actually in the NDP we want to adress ourselves to the concern of these forces and to raise thei understanding of the tasks before Canadian socialisrs through understanding the Quebec struggle.

That is what lies behind my interest that I previously expressed about the Mouvement Socialiste--or what ehightens my interest in it.

Perhaps I am mistaken in thinking that the paper Presse Libre published at 3575 Saint-Laurent, Local 406 Montreal has something to do with the Mouvement Socialiste. My French is very poor but the one issue I cameacross gacve a big coverage to a Trois Rivieres assembly of supporter of the Mouvement. Of course the PQ is of primary interest. Some years ago when the Trotskyist forces were unified I suggested that as a serious movem we would of necessity have to follow closely and even cultivate some forces moving in the direction of a labor party within the PQ . Do you know Henry Milner ? He and his wife Sheilagh worte a fine book called The Decolonizati of Quebec which I am sure you have read. ...and Politics in the New Quebec. He became president of the Committee of Anglophones for Sovereignty associ tion and played an active role in the campaign for a yes vote. Forward supported the yes vote. Milner wrote a few articles for Forward --a lenghty one in our April-May 1980 issue . I have just gone to my file and decided t sned you a copy of that issue of Forward which realizing that the Quebecois were confronting a historic challenge devoted a great deal of space to the referendum. Yes we certainly want to cover important develo ments in the PQ and of course in the trade union movement. The Montreal elections might be worth commenting on --I see there is a lawyer running who has connectiond with the Confederation of National Trade Unions. Is he presenting himself a a labor candidate--is the trade union movement,(the Montreal QFL council supporting him. That would be of mmmmmhm importance.

A couple of months ago--for the first time we were able to force a deba at a Toronto area NDP conference on the question of running a candidate for Mayor. I made the last summary speech and last month I made a personal appe to all the campaign activists of the aldermaninc and B of Education canadia that the matter should be opened for reconsideration in the light of the 6 and 5 anti-labor drive. But the party and the trade union brass came in so heavy handed that they killed it. But there is an unprecedented interes in the party in municipal elections. Last election the NDP established a narrow majority on the Toronto Board of Education so what happens in Montre in this area is of importance to our readership.

You could go up to five pages of copy which is copy typed triple space, 60 characters to the line, 20 lines to a page. If you could have it h here within let us say two weeks of today it would be very good. And if you find so much of interest and you provide us with not 3 or 4 but 4 or 5 different notes and give us some choices that woyld be alright too.

I gather from other person's experiences that the Deutscher biography of Trotsky is a good point to sart with Trotsky. It seems to usually stimul furthr interest in Trotsky's own writings --for of all mean of action and theoreticians doesn'6 need much help to present his ideas which continue to respond to the challenges of our epoch. He even wrote his own biography which Deutscher finds scrupuously homest--even guilty of false modesty. For all of its great value I found the book somewhat irritating, its style resulting in all kinds of tensions which if you are not too well acquainted with the themes are somewhat irritating. What you must read--and on the firs occasion which you can devote some extened unbroken time to it--is his 3 volume History of the Russian Revolution. . It is of course much more tha a history of the RR but of the great bourgeois revolutions of the lws that govern social revolution in the epoch of the world mmmmmmmm socialist rev· olution.

I have managed to read it twice and would like to read it again--but I am such a slow reader and there is so much pressing in one me.to be read and studied. Since Trotsky stands on the shoulders of Marx and Engels and of Lenin there are certain of their writings that must be read too. ,, if you have not managed to come across them in your evolution.

Lenin-----	Imperialism
	State and Revolution
	Left Wing Communism ,an infantile disorder
	Questions of National policy and proletarian internation.
	Materialism and Empirio Criticism
Marx-	Capital--certainly volume one
	The Communist Manifesto--preferably the Riazanov notes
	The 18th Brumaire edition
	Civil War in France
Engels	Anti-Duhring--which includes Socialism Utopian and Scien
	Dialectics of Nature
	Marx-Engels correspondence -there is a one volume select:

I think there are some key contemporary presentations of Marxism-Leninism that it would be good to be acquainted with---Mandel--

Mandel---Marxist Economic Thoery	
	Late capitalism
	From Class Society to Communism
Novack	Introduction to the Logic of Marxism
	Origins of Materialism
	Understanding History

And of course there are some Canadian books that are quite key to use here-. Stanley Ryersons two volumes--The Founding of Canada
Unequal Union

I see now I left Trotsky with just the History of the RR and My Li
But there are other key writings:

In Defence of Marxism--the most brilliant polemic I have	
Revolution Betrayed----(what became of RR-the coming	reac
On Britain -- (on reformism)	political revolut
The Third International After Lenin.	(what is Stalinism)

These are key books that you would do well if you can carve out the necessary time to read. As you are interested in German revisionism you must read Rosa Luxemburg's Reform or Revolition and her biography by Netl

But I must close this letter---more later

comradely

Ross Dowson

R. Bowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto M4Y 2K2

November 17, 1982

Anne D

Dear Anne

I hope our ataking advantage of your offer over the anti-war weekend did not disturb your relations with your fellow commune-ists. It was all very convenient and made the operation go smoother. We got a couple of subs out of the Forward distribution--Art and Gord sold several huhdreds of the NDP anti-war party buttons.Did I tell that I was able to play a bit of a role in one of the seminar discussions the one on non-violence-passive resistance.The speaker reltated a revolutionary struggle that broke out in El Salvador during world war II which I had not hear of. I did not see how it served his purpose-It was obviou that the leaders of the struggle were leading a resistance towards buildi a mass base within the popilation towards toppling a regime. I was able to show that it was a tactical question--and that while here in Canada th NDP was committed (excluvely) to the parliamentary struggle, on occasion they took the road to mobilization of mass pressure- and in El Salvador support right now armed struggle. The speaker went right along with my comments and was upbraided by an elederly and very propoer gentleman in t audicne for doing so.

So I take it that Denis will have arrived. Give him my best regards. I take it he received the bundle of cli pings and articles on Science and society that I sent him which was to be a prelude to a lengthyband though letter ful articles that never surfaced . The most interesting articlein the bunch in my opinion was the item from the new British labor party journal that challenged all the previous efforts on Bernal, Haldane , Faarington to deepen our understanding of nature with the aid of Marxism, challenging our concept of humanity conquering it, and our concept pfxx of progress. As Trotsky noted in Revolution Betrayed: "All economy", said Marx - and that means all human struggle with nature at all stages of civ ization- "comes down in the last analysis to an economy of time" Reduced its primary basis, history is nothing but a struggle for an economy of working time. Socialism could not be justified by the abolition of exploitation along; it must guarantte to society a higher economy of time than is guaranteed by capitalism. Without the realization of this conditi the mere removal of exploitation would be but a dramatic episode without a future."' I am looking forward to seeing him first opportunity he has to come this way. I fact there is a proposition that we hold here a modes social on or around December 4. Perhaps you and he can come in then.

But there are two other matters that I want to take up with you. One involves a publication called A Revised Handbook of Selected Ethinic anizations in Canada, prepared by the Ottawa government--a 100 page handbook--the text of which was released a couple of days ago by Conservative MP Perrin Beatty, much to the embarassment of the Liberal government whose spokesmen smeared the PQ for having prepared a relative innocuous guide a week or so previously

Tuesday's Star had an article on it and the Globe had a couple aroun the same date-November 16. I am hoping that this note finds you with enough time to

enough time to ferret out a copy, to read it over carefully and take some notes on it. It comments on a Sudentin-German organization here ~~which~~ as being heavily committed to the NDP, about the influence of Papenderou in the Canadian Greek movement, while on the York campus ~~and~~ prior to his return to Greece he was around the NDP. It refers to CP influce in some unnamed organizations and the Portugeue -Canadian Democratic Association at a time that ~~the~~ the revolution was surging up ~~in~~ in Portugal and the LSA was actively involved in that milieu-including myself. The public tion date is October 1974. Operation Checkmate was 1969 to December 1973, apparently . I would like anything and everything where the document mentions the NDP and of couse the trade union movement--the real targets of the RCMP--the CP and particularly if there is even so much as a mantion of the LSA and Trotskyism. I am hoping that you can squeeze a little time out to take on this interesting little project. It would be good if you ~~co~~ caould arrenge to do so shortly as I am noew supposed to be working on RCMP material for the coming issue of Forward.

regards

The other item is reagrs to Camp Poundmaker. Last night we had a preliminary discussion on phasing out the RWL and bringing in the new shareholders. It was extreemely difficult to cope with Murray and this morning he reopened thesituation with Lois. I think he is prepared to sell you his lot for $1,000 cash if your family can scare it together and to turn his cabin over to you on the basis that you pick up the tab for the hydro and taxes, with a view to leaving it to you in his will. This would seem to me to be a very good proposition--he talks in terms of you...Walter is a non-person. His cabin would be firt ra rate for the use of all the H Dowson's-Legace's issue

You would have to come in to see him and settle such a matter

Any questions ?

Ross

November 22, 1982

40 Homewood Ave, #2311
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Brantford
Dear John and Carmen (Glenn)

Too bad you were not able to get into the maaeting we arranged for the camp. It went off well. Ruth busily supplied us with coffee and biscuits (Lois was in the hospital.She cut her hand between thumb and forefinger opening a bottle of wine and subsequebtly got infection in it and wont be out until Wednesday or thereabouts) The net outcome was tha Harry and Sabina---John Darling-decided then and there that they wanted lots, Debbie wants to talk it over to settle the matter with Dave---and Anne ifformed us that her sisters and mother were in the midst of working out an arrangement with Murray about his lot and cabin. So we have managed to get some new blood into the operation and are well on the way of buying out the Toronto Social Science and Educational Society block

So it would be very good if you could give me a decision in the next few days as to whther you want one--and if the decion is yes, approximately when you think you could pay the $1,000 if you decide yes. I would like to pay off the TSS&ES as soon as possible and no doubt could arr ange a loan with someone to expedite the whole process. It will be good to clear those people away who while they inadventently paid some of the carrying charges were in reality an incubus on the whole thing.

I am waiting right now for a phone call from a leading activist on the Polish committee. The OFL is holding their convention and I have volunteered to administer a display with the Solidarity office at Gervais Blvd and get permission and pull sufficient material together. It could be a good thing.

In cidently I finally made contact with the Mandel current here in Canada. About six months ago we took out a sub to an Englisn language fotghtnightly newsservice published in Europe by them. On Saturday I met the fellow who is supposed to circulate it. He is on teaching staff at York, a fmorer RMGer. xmxmxhxmxxxxxxxxx he gave me back issues they owe us and at the same time the first issue of their Canadian magazine. I had about a two hour talk with him and took some extra copies of their latest newsbulletin. Alas I didn't think to put one aside for you --all three extra copies were snapped up at our camp meeting. It is quite good and runs circles around the SWP's Intercontinental Press. I will get some more and send you a couple.

Enk I am enclosing one of the copies of the agreement worked out for the camp. Ofcourse we will be revising it shorlty. As you can see it is actually worked out wonderfully--for these are tricky things.

Let me know you decisinn as soon as you are able.

(K.D.)

E2-1982

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

December 13, 1982

La Ligue des Droits et Liberties
1825 rue de Champlain
Montreal. Quebec H2L 2S9

Dear friends;

I received tn copy of the excellent brochure that you sent to the Socialist Rights Defence Fund. Thank you very much. We are preparing some more material on our suit and we will write up something on the Regaldo Affair to go in it. We will be sending you a copy after the new year. I am enclosing a mony order which includes $2 to cover costs of the brochure.

I am also enclosing a all-too-modest contribution of $5 to go to the Regaldo defence. Unfortunately the SRDF has no resources for such a prupose. The courst are now moving against me personally to pay the many costs that they levied against me. In order to get a modest breakthrough via the court system we launched a suit in the Small Claims Court. Astonishing they have reached down into that court, demaded a pretrail hearing ! and have beer postponing it now until May 24-25--two days no less,with Bora Laskin's son representing the RCMP.

I am also enclosing a copy of a booklet covering the first stages of our suit, along with supplementary material that I would appreciate your turning over to Victor Regaldo in solidarity.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Forward
Box 778, Adeliade St. P.O.
TorontoM5C 2K1
Canada

Dec 13, 1982

Business Office INPREKOR
Dear Comrades:

Many months back a comrade Zane Boyd sent you funds for a subscription on our behalf to INPREKOR to be sent to his home address at 320 Niska, Downsview, Ontario--a suburb of Toronto. He has not received a single copy as of the above date. We are most anxious to obtain it--Isee from the October 4 issue of International Viewpoint that 5 issues have appeared so far. Would you kindly check this subsciption out and would you change the address you should mail it to from Niska to the above box number on Adelaide Street in Toronto . Boyd sent the funds direct to your Montreuil address. I hope that you have a record of this. If not I will try.

Business Office International Viewpoint.
Dear Comrades;

We gather that the subscription we took out to your excellent fortnighly newsservice that was coming to Montreal via air to be remailed to us broke down. After many enquiries addressed to your Montreal comrade suddenly a bundle of accumulated back issues arrived at our box with the adddress of Jim Naylor here in Toronto on the cover. We have since had the pleasure of meeting Comrade Naylor and obtaining other literature from him. We have sold to contacts copies of several issues that he turned over to us and expect that very shortly you will be receiving some direct airmail subs.

We gather that pressure from other matters makes it very difficult for him to service what he calls hand-to-hand subscriptions that feed out from the airmail bundle you send him. We woyld like the subscription that he is servicing to Forward to be sent from Montreuil to our Adelaide St. P.O. Box 778 direct. We do not know where you noXw consider that subscription stands.If you would be so good as to let us know we will send you the required funds.for it to come via airmail direct.

Naylor tells us that there is no second issue of the impressive International Marxist Review. Too bad. It was sad to dxxx read that Ernest Mandel's companion Gisella died recently. We understand that Ernest is coming to the University of Ottawa shortly and to a Winnipeg conference. We are looking forward to seeing him again.

comradely

Ross Dowson

to Jim Naylor #201
124 Spencer Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.

December 13, 1982

Dear Jim:

I am enclosing a money order for $15.20 which cover the cost of all the items that you sent me except the 10 copies of #1 International Solidarity. The comrades that I am in contact with the the Polish milieu thought that they were hopelessly outdated and instead of boosting any work that we are able to do there express its poverty. You will receive them any day in the mail.

Sorry about the information re International Marxist Review --its continuation would have been very prestigious for the work that you do with Socialist Challenge.

In the next shortwhile I am confident that the Paris office of International Viewpoint will be receiving several air mail subscriptions. It seems to mev that hand-to-hand subs of International Viewpoint is not too useful, and that to be useful you woyld have to remail them once the bundle gets into this country. After all it is a newsservice and time is of the essence for many who would subscribe to it. I know that this is so from the point of view of the subscription that we took out in the name of Forward Publishing Association. We want it almost as soon as it gets out. So I will be writing the French office to transfer what issues we still have coming to us at the Adelaide St P.O. Box to airmail direct from France. I assume that they will make adjustments to the budle they send you. I will also be writing them with regards to the subscription that Zane Boyd took out for t thee Polish Inprekor which I see according to the October 4 Viewpoint has come out for 5 issues . Zane has received no copy at all at the Niska Ave address he gave. I am writing them to this effect abd askingthem to send copies to the Adeliade St. P.O. box. direct.

The single copies of Viewpoint that you sent me were much appreciated. And what did you think of Forward and in particular my review of the Angus book which you say is in your area of research.? The new book -The Littlr Band by Betcherman underscored the validity of my crticism of some of his unsubstantiated comments. You will recall that I questioned some comments that he made about the CP's conduct in the Section 98 fight. ...I commented that I was unaware that the Trotskyists of the time made any such criticism. Well it appears that not only did Spector attend the hearings(court) He had recently graduated in law and only just been expelled as the leading Trotskyist but he was invited by Buck to his home with a tiny

~~xiRRIXXIRW~~ select few to celebrate Buck's defence-in the course of which he said that it was "Magnificent." Of course there is little satisfaction in this.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

George Bryant
Joan Newbigging % Sims

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto
Dec .22, 1982

Robert Sims
Montreal:

Dear Bob:

I received your note today. It is undated but I see the recipt for the $4,000 is marked December 13, 1982

I note that you have sent a copy to George Bryant, John Riddell, and probably you have acquinted Joan Newbigging with its contents. Very good. I had intended to let all three know where things stand with their shares earlier but was diverted from doing so. I will take advantage of this ocassion of responding to your letter to send them a copy and fill them in at the same time.

I have noted your previous comments about Joan's desire to sell her share. John R informed me directly . And I contacted Bea Bryant who inofrmed me that George also wished to sell his. Of course it would be most satisfactory if the corporation coould buy up all the shares and at one time. But as you know the corporation has no reserves of anykind and the only way we could find to respond to these requests is to sell the shares that have been offered us to other parties who might be interested in buying them: a classic broker role.

We are in the process of doing this and have succeeded in sending you the funds so far from four sources that have been approved of by the continuing directors who have had to assume responsibility for the corporation. It is their desire to sell the shares rapidly. But as you know this is not your everyday real estate deal and it takes time. Several interested persons have told us that they will know where they stand early this coming year. You can be sure we will move on this just as soon as we are able, and will forward them payment.

I note that you express no concern as to the cost of the insurance on the lodge that I have been trying to get adjusted at your request. While it has always required advance payment and has always been met by the TSS&ES as part of their responsibility, on this ocassion you instruct me to pass it along to the old,and the as-yet-undetermined new shareholders. Interestingly it is going to cost us $215.- $30 more for $10,000 less coverage than last year . We have also received the hydro bill. I have advanced the necessary $73.75, along with the $215

It is entirely up to you to do as you wish with the $4,000 I forwarded to you for the TSS&ES block of shares. I took the lump sum out of my account as soon as it went in so that the government, which is demandimg payment of the various jurdgements against me, could not seize it--hence the certified cheque. Thanks for the Xerox copies of the forms that were drawn up in 1977. I never ever received copies for the file. Theymay prove helpful in the future.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson,#2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2
961-4554

Arthur L. Davis
E. Parry Sound
Box 565
Mattawa, Ont.

Dear Art:

It was good to meet you at the Left Caucus meeting. And to turn over your donation to the Socialist Rights Defence Fund. I was looking for you or at least went down Sunday morning expecting to search you out among the delegates. Unfortunately upon my arrival I learned that no alternates were going to be allowed on the floor because of the jam of delegates so I had to content myself with helping hand out a leaflet put out by the Polish Workers Solidarity Committee announcing a series of forums they are holding here in Toronto. .. milling arcund a bit outside the door--and then taking off to do many other tasks before me. I thoughtJohnson's speech was really excellent as it came over TV. Well now the right wing has the leadership in its hands and will have no excuses

I am enclosi g a copy of the paper that I an friends put out. Think that you will find it useful for yourself and acquaintances. We circulate it widely at all major NDP ~~xxxxxxx~~affairs and it is taking hold. Drop me a line as to what you think of it and its possible use up there where you are now living.

And anytime you manage to get down to Toronto give me a ring. Bet time i. thevmorning or late in the evening.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

RCMP--1

Whereas it is an elementary principle of democracy that all police forces must be under close popular civilian control;

and whereas the hand-picked Royal Commission headed by Mr Justice McDonald, following its four year long investigation of RCMP violations of the law and civil rights reported "improper conduct" by the RCMP which "we consider form enough of a pattern to be considered 'institutionalised'", that the RCMP proved indifferent to or unable to distinguish between what might possibly be considered subversion and what is completely legitimate dissent, and discerned "a widespread attitude by the force that it need not be responsible to civilian authority..."

and whereas the Liberal government, even before the McDonald Report, handed down almost a year ago, has come before the House of Commons , has announced that it will not itself uphold the law which the RCMP has admittedly violated, causing the Canadian Civil Liberties Association to denounce this decision as "one of the most blatant outrages perpetrated on the public in years" creating "a double standard" in law and undermining the very concept of the "rule of law;"

and whereas leading spokespersons of the government rationalized continued RCMP violations of the law by urging that that which is now illegal be made legal, even condoning the continued scandalous use of writs that empower RCMPers to enter any persons residence andvsearch it at any time, and by taking no action against the continued utilization of the 800,000 files that it has been revealed the RCMP has built up on individuals;

and whereas the political and legal establishments have continued to block even such efforts to seek justice as the Socialist Rights Defence Fund's support of the suit as initiated by Ross Dowson and by Henry Buchbinder on behalf of the defunct Praxis Institute:

Therefore be it resolved that our party call for the dissolution of the RCMP and vote against all budgetary allocations to its maintenance and that it urge all governments now utilizing the RCMP for provincial and municipial services take over this responsibility as have Quebec and Ontario.